





Ant. Frost



KING EDWARD
THE SEVENTH



THOMAS NELSON AND SONS
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

King Edward the Seventh



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KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH.

CHAPTER I.

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS.

KING EDWARD VII. was born on November 9, 1841, at Buckingham Palace. On the Sunday following that eventful November 9 on which His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. first saw the light the Rev. Sydney Smith preached at St. Paul's, and made the following interesting addition to the Bidding Prayer :—

We pray also for that infant of the Royal race whom in Thy good providence Thou hast given us for our future King. We beseech Thee so to mould his heart and fashion his spirit that he may be a blessing and not an evil to the land of his birth. May he grow in favour with man by leaving to its own force and direction the energy of a free people. May he grow in favour with God by holding the faith in Christ fervently and feelingly, without feebleness, without fanaticism, without folly. As he will be the first man in these realms, so may he be the best; disdaining to hide bad actions by high station, and endeavouring always by the example of a strict and moral life to repay those gifts which a loyal people are so willing to spare from their own necessities to a good King.

It must be remembered that this prayer was uttered in 1841, and some of the phrases which the great wit used reflect rather the Holland House view of the monarchy entertained at that time. Nevertheless, the prayer is noteworthy, because in spirit, if not in the letter, it was so completely answered.

The news was received with great enthusiasm throughout the country, and *Punch* celebrated the event in some verses, beginning :—

Huzza ! we've a little Prince at last,
A roaring Royal boy ;
And all day long the booming bells
Have rung their peals of joy.

And the little park guns have blazed away,
And made a tremendous noise,
Whilst the air has been filled since eleven o'clock
With the shouts of little boys.

At the moment of his birth the eldest son of the Sovereign became Duke of Cornwall. The little Prince also became at his birth Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Great Steward of Scotland (by Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1469) ; but he was not born Prince of Wales. King George IV. was only a week old when he was created Prince of Wales

and Earl of Chester by letters patent; but King Edward VII. had to wait nearly a month—till December 4, 1841—for these dignities.

The christening of the Prince of Wales took place on January 25, 1842, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, for although Royal baptisms had hitherto been celebrated within the Palace, both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert felt it to be more in harmony with the religious sentiments of the country that the future King should be christened within a consecrated building.

The choice of sponsors was a matter of considerable delicacy. Finally, the King of Prussia was asked to undertake the office; and King Edward's other sponsors were his step-grandmother, the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, represented by the Duchess of Kent; the Duke of Cambridge; the young Duchess of Saxe-Coburg (Queen Victoria's sister-in-law), represented by the Duchess of Cambridge; Princess Sophia, represented by the Princess Augusta of Cambridge; and Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg. Nothing was omitted to make the christening a magnificent and impressive ceremony. There was a full choral service, and a special anthem had been composed by Mr. (afterwards Sir) George Elvey for the occasion. When Prince Albert was

told of this, and asked when it should be sung, he answered: "Not at all. No anthem. If the service ends by an anthem, we shall all go out criticising the music. We will have something we all know—something in which we can all join—something devotional. The Hallelujah Chorus; we shall all join in that, with our hearts."

"It is impossible," wrote Queen Victoria in her Journal, "to describe how beautiful and imposing the effect of the whole scene was in the fine old chapel, with the banners, the music, and the light shining on the altar." It was significant of the young Queen's native simplicity that the Prince was only christened Albert, after his father, and Edward, after his grandfather, the Duke of Kent.

King Edward VII. was barely four months old when Baron Stockmar, Prince Albert's intimate friend and adviser, drew up a very long memorandum on the education of Queen Victoria's eldest son and daughter; and the conclusion at which he arrived was, "that the education of the Royal infants ought to be from its earliest beginning *a truly moral and a truly English one.*"

Lord Melbourne, on being consulted, concurred in Baron Stockmar's suggestion that a lady of rank should be appointed governess to the Princess Royal

and the Prince of Wales ; and the choice of the Royal parents fell upon Lady Lyttelton, who had been a lady-in-waiting from 1838, and who appeared to possess the precise qualifications which the post demanded. The daughter of George John, second Earl Spencer, and his wife Lavinia, daughter of the first Earl of Lucan, she was born in 1787, married, in 1813, William Henry, afterwards third Lord Lyttelton, and died in 1870.

Lady Lyttelton was installed as governess to the Royal children in April 1842, and discharged her duties with equal ability and devotion. Early in 1851 she laid down her office. Her young charges parted from her with sad hearts and tearful eyes, as Sir Theodore Martin records in the " Life of the Prince Consort ; " while from the Queen and Prince Albert she received marked proofs of the deep gratitude which they felt for all that she had done.

In 1846, King Edward accompanied his parents on two yachting excursions—in August and September—on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*. Writing in her Journal on September 2, Queen Victoria says, with a pretty touch of maternal pride :—

After passing the Alderney Race it became quite smooth ; and then Bertie put on his sailor's dress, which was beautifully

made by the man on board who makes for our sailors. When he appeared, the officers and sailors, who were all assembled on deck to see him, cheered, and seemed delighted with him.

In August 1847, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, with the Queen's half-brother, the Prince of Leiningen, went for a tour round the west coast of Scotland, taking with them their two eldest children, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. This is notable as King Edward's first visit to Scotland; and of this tour we obtain some delightful details in the late Queen's "Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands."

It must be remembered that at that time practically nothing was known by the general public about the Royal children, for their parents had very wisely resolved that they should as far as possible enjoy a natural, happy childhood—that being the best possible preparation for the public life that awaited them. However, evidently no harm was done by the notice which was taken of the Royal children on this tour, and naturally when the yacht arrived in Welsh waters, there was the greatest enthusiasm among the inhabitants at the sight of their little Prince. At Milford Haven their loving mother writes:—

Numbers of boats came out, with Welshwomen in their curious

high-crowned men's hats, and Bertie was much cheered, for the people seemed greatly pleased to see the "Prince of Wales."

Then again at Rothesay, when the yacht had passed up the Clyde :—

The children enjoy everything extremely, and bear the novelty and excitement wonderfully. The people cheered the "Duke of Rothesay" very much, and also called for a cheer for the "Princess of Great Britain." Everywhere the good Highlanders are very enthusiastic.

Naturally a good deal of interest was taken in the little Prince of Wales by those who had an opportunity of seeing him. When the great geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, went to Balmoral, Queen Victoria's eldest son, "a pleasing, lively boy," gave him an account of the conjuring of Anderson, the "Wizard of the North," who had just then shown the Court some marvellous tricks. Said the Prince, in an awestruck tone :—

He cut to pieces Mamma's pocket-handkerchief, then darned it and ironed it so that it was as entire as ever; he then fired a pistol, and caused five or six watches to go through Gibbs's head; but Papa knows how all these things are done, and had the watches really gone through Gibbs's head he could hardly have looked so well, though he was confounded.

The late Archbishop Benson, before he went up to Cambridge, was tutor to the sons of Mr. Wicksted, then tenant of Abergeldie Castle. Writing

to his mother on September 15, 1848, young Benson gives the following interesting description of a glimpse which he had of the King as a little boy :—

The Prince of Wales is a fair little lad, rather of slender make, with a good head and a remarkably quiet and thinking face, above his years in intelligence I should think. The sailor portrait of him is a good one, but does not express the thought that there is on his little brow. Prince Alfred is a fair, chubby little lad, with a quiet look, but quite the Guelph face, which does not appear in the Prince of Wales.

It was during that same autumn that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert first established themselves with their six children at Balmoral. The life there was as far as possible shorn of Royal state, and the life at Windsor Castle was scarcely less simple. Writing to an intimate friend, the late Duchess of Teck thus describes a dramatic performance at the Castle in January 1849, in which King Edward appeared, in spite of an accident which he had had a few days before :—

Last Wednesday we went to Windsor Castle to remain till Friday. The visit went off very well indeed. The Queen and the children are looking very well, and the latter much grown. The poor little Prince of Wales has disfigured his face by falling on an iron-barred gate, and the bridge of his nose and both his eyes are quite black and bruised, but fortunately no bones were broken. The first evening we danced till twelve o'clock. Next day . . . dinner was very early, and at eight o'clock the Play began. "Used Up" and "Box and Cox" were chosen for

that night, and I was much pleased at seeing two very amusing pieces. They were very well acted, and we all laughed a great deal. The theatre was well arranged, and the decorations and lamps quite wonderfully managed. It was put up in the Rubens-room, which is separated from the Garter-room by one small room where the private band stood. In the Garter-room was the Buffet, and in the centre hung one of the beautiful chandeliers from the pavilion at Brighton. The four elder children appeared at the play, and the two boys wore their "kilts." The two little girls had on white lace gowns, over white satin, with pink bows and sashes. Princess Royal wears her hair in a very becoming manner, all twisted up into a large curl, which is tucked into a dark blue or black silk net, which keeps it all very tidy and neat.

CHAPTER II.

THE KING'S BOYHOOD.

IN view of all that has been said in the last chapter to show how anxiously Queen Victoria and Prince Albert considered the education of the future King of England, it is amusing to record that the latter was quite five years old before it occurred to the public to take an interest in the question. It was then that a pamphlet was published, entitled, "Who should Educate the Prince of Wales?" This was carefully read by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and Baron Stockmar at their request drew up another long memorandum, dealing this time with the question of the Prince's education alone. His conclusion was that—

The education of the Prince should nowise tend to make him a demagogue or a moral enthusiast, but a man of calm, profound, comprehensive understanding, imbued with a deep conviction of the indispensable necessity of practical morality to the welfare of both Sovereign and people. The proper duty of the Sovereign in this country is not to take the lead in change, but to act as a

balance-wheel on the movements of the social body. When the whole nation, or a large majority of it, advances, the King should not stand still; but when the movement is too partial, irregular, or over-rapid, the royal power may with advantage be interposed to restore the equilibrium. Above all attainments, the Prince should be trained to freedom of thought and a firm reliance on the inherent power of sound principles, political, moral, and religious, to sustain themselves and produce practical good when left in possession of a fair field of development.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert also consulted the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Wilberforce) and Sir James Clark, both of whom recorded their views in long and carefully-considered papers, in which they came to conclusions substantially the same as those of Baron Stockmar. On these principles therefore, King Edward VII. was educated—namely, that the best way to build up a noble and princely character is to bring it into intelligent sympathy with the best movements of the age.

After some further discussion, Prince Albert opened negotiations with Mr. Henry Birch (afterwards Rector of Prestwick, near Manchester), the gentleman who was ultimately entrusted with the responsible position of tutor to the future ruler of the British Empire.

Writing to his stepmother, the Dowager-Duchess of Gotha, in April 1849, Prince Albert observed:—

Bertie will be given over in a few weeks into the hands of a tutor, whom we have found in a Mr. Birch, a young, good-looking, amiable man, who was a tutor at Eton, and who not only himself took the highest honours at Cambridge, but whose pupils have also won especial distinction. It is an important step, and God's blessing be upon it, for upon the good education of Princes, and especially of those who are destined to govern, the welfare of the world in these days very greatly depends.

During the years 1848 to 1850 a Mr. George Bartley, well known at that time as an actor, was engaged to read at Buckingham Palace translations of the "Antigone," and the trilogy of "Ædipus." Queen Victoria was so much pleased with the ability which Mr. Bartley showed that she engaged him to give lessons in elocution to her eldest son, who certainly profited by them, to judge by the ability which His Majesty afterwards showed as a public speaker.

In the summer of 1849, King Edward VII. visited Ireland for the first time. He landed with his parents at Queenstown, and received a splendid welcome, which probably laid the foundation of his hearty sympathy with, and liking for, the Irish character. Queen Victoria, after vividly describing the enthusiasm with which the Royal visitors were greeted at Dublin, Cork, and elsewhere, writes in her Journal on August 12 :—

I intend to create Bertie "Earl of Dublin," as a compliment to the town and country; he has no Irish title, though he is *born* with several Scotch ones (belonging to the heirs to the Scotch throne, and which we have inherited from James VI. of Scotland and I. of England); and this was one of my father's titles.

Accordingly, the Prince of Wales was soon afterwards gazetted Earl of Dublin, but in the peerage of the United Kingdom, not, as had been done in the case of the Duke of Kent, in the peerage of Ireland.

It is a curious fact that King Edward visited Ireland, and, as we have seen, Cornwall, Wales, and Scotland, before he was brought before the public notice of his future English subjects.

His late Majesty made his first official appearance in London on October 30, 1849. It had been arranged that Queen Victoria was to be present at the opening of the Coal Exchange, but she was not able to go as she was suffering from chicken-pox. Accordingly, it was arranged that the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales should represent their Royal mother.

"Puss and the boy," as the Queen called them, went with their father in state from Westminster to the City in the Royal barge rowed by twenty-six watermen, and all London turned out to meet

the little Prince and his sister. Lady Lyttelton, in a letter to Mrs. Gladstone, gives a charming account of the event, and tells how the Prince Consort was careful to put the future King forward. Some City dignitary addressed the young Prince as "the pledge and promise of a long race of Kings;" "and," says Lady Lyttelton, "poor Princey did not seem to guess at all what he meant." In honour of the Royal children a great many quaint old city customs were revived, including a swan barge, and both King Edward and the Empress Frederick seem to have retained a very delightful recollection of their first visit to the city.

It must have been about this time that Miss Alcott, the author of "Little Women," paid a visit to London, and sent home to her family the following description of the Prince:—

A yellow-haired laddie, very like his mother. Fanny, W., and I nodded and waved as he passed, and he openly winked his boyish eye at us, for Fanny with her yellow curls and wild waving looked rather rowdy, and the poor little Prince wanted some fun.

Two years later, King Edward was present at the opening of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and in the following year Mr. Birch retired from his responsible post, greatly to the sorrow of his young pupil, who

was a most affectionate and open-hearted little boy.

In June 1852, Viscountess Canning wrote from Windsor Castle :—

Mr. Birch left yesterday. It has been a terrible sorrow to the Prince of Wales, who has done no end of touching things since he heard that he was to lose him three weeks ago. He is such an affectionate, dear little boy ; his little notes and presents, which Mr. Birch used to find on his pillow, were really too moving.

There were many discussions as to who should become the Prince's next tutor. On the recommendation of Sir James Stephen, Mr. Frederick W. Gibbs was appointed. He remained in his responsible position till 1858, and was rarely separated from his Royal pupil during those seven years.

But although so much attention was devoted to the education and mental training of King Edward, he spent a very happy and unclouded childhood ; and, like all his brothers and sisters, he retained the happiest memories of the youthful days spent by him at Balmoral, Osborne, and Windsor. Thus the Baroness Bunsen in her "Memoirs" gives a charming account of a masque devised by the Royal children in honour of the anniversary of the Queen and the Prince Consort's marriage. King Edward, then twelve years old, represented Winter, and recited some passages from Thomson's "Seasons."

Princess Alice was Spring, scattering flowers ; the Princess Royal, Summer ; Prince Alfred, Autumn ; while Princess Helena, in the *rôle* of St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, who was, according to tradition, a native of Britain, called down Heaven's benedictions on her much-loved parents.

Shortly before this pretty scene took place, King Edward had made his first appearance in the House of Lords, sitting beside his Royal mother upon the throne. It was on this occasion that the addresses of the two Houses in answer to the Queen's message announcing the beginning of hostilities in the Crimean War were presented, and there is no doubt that the sad and terrible months that followed made a deep and lasting impression on His Majesty's mind. He took the most vivid interest in the fortune of the war, and in March 1855 went with his parents to the military hospital at Chatham, where a large number of the wounded had recently arrived from the East.

The popular concern was exhibited in many ingenious and touching ways. An exhibition was held at Burlington House in aid of the Patriotic Fund, and all the Royal children who were old enough sent drawings and paintings, King Edward's exhibit obtaining the considerable sum of fifty-five guineas.

The worst of the terrible struggle was over by the time King Edward and the Empress Frederick accompanied their parents to Paris in August of the same year, on a visit which lasted eight days.

The visit was in many ways historically eventful. Queen Victoria was the first British Sovereign to enter Paris since the days of Henry VI., and the Royal party received a truly splendid welcome. The young Prince and his sister, however, were not allowed to be idle; and, though they shared to a great extent in the entertainments organised in honour of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, their headquarters remained the whole time in the charming country palace of St. Cloud, and after sight-seeing in Paris all day, they always drove back there each evening. It is in part, at least, to the impression left by this visit that King Edward owed his strong affection and liking for France and the French people. When present at a splendid review, held in honour of Queen Victoria, he attracted quite as much attention as any of his elders, for he was dressed in full Highland costume, and remained in the carriage with his mother and the Empress, while the Emperor and Prince Consort were on horseback.

The last gala given in their honour was a splendid

ball at Versailles, and on this occasion both the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal were allowed to be present, and sat down to supper with the Emperor and Empress.

One of the most pleasing traits in Napoleon III.'s character was his great liking for children. He paid considerable attention to his youthful guests, who both became much attached to him; and later, when he was living at Chislehurst, a broken-hearted exile, King Edward never lost an opportunity of paying his respectful and kindly attentions.

King Edward enjoyed this, his first, Continental holiday so heartily that he begged the Empress to get leave for his sister and himself to stay a little longer after his parents were gone home! When, with some embarrassment, she replied that Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort would not be able to do without their two children, he exclaimed, "Not do without us! Don't fancy that, for there are six more of us at home, and they don't want *us*;" but it need hardly be added that this *naïf* exclamation did not have the desired effect, and the young people duly returned home with their parents.

A few days later, the Prince Consort, writing to Baron Stockmar, observed:—

You will be pleased to hear how well both the children behaved. They made themselves general favourites, especially the Prince of Wales, *qui est si gentil*.

And on the same topic the father wrote to the Duchess of Kent :—

I am bound to praise the children greatly. They behaved extremely well and pleased everybody. The task was no easy one for them, but they discharged it without embarrassment and with natural simplicity.

When King Edward was fourteen he started on an *incognito* walking tour in the west of England with Mr. Gibbs and Colonel Cavendish. Then followed a visit to Königswinter for purposes of study, when he had with him General Grey; Colonel (afterwards General) H. Ponsonby, his domestic tutor; Mr. Gibbs, his classical tutor; the Rev. Charles Tarver (afterwards Canon of Chester); and Dr. Armstrong. It may be conveniently recorded here that in 1858, when Mr. F. W. Gibbs retired, Mr. Tarver was appointed the future King's Director of Studies and Chaplain, in which capacity he accompanied him to Rome, Spain, and Portugal; and then went with him to Edinburgh, remaining with the then Prince of Wales till the autumn of 1859, when his education ceased to be conducted at home.

King Edward was confirmed in 1858, and the Prince Consort, writing to Baron Stockmar on

April 2, gives an interesting account of the ceremony :—

They were all three [Lords Palmerston, John Russell, and Derby] yesterday at the confirmation of the Prince of Wales, which went off with great solemnity, and, I hope, with an abiding impression on his mind. The previous day his examination took place before the Archbishop and ourselves. Wellesley prolonged it to a full hour, and Bertie acquitted himself *extremely well*.

The day following his confirmation, King Edward received the sacrament with his father and mother, and here may be fittingly ended the story of His Majesty's boyhood.

CHAPTER III.

OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, AND THE CURRAGH.

KING EDWARD had now emerged from boyhood, and his conscientious parents set themselves to make the arrangements suitable for his growing years. What these arrangements were will be clear from the following passages in the Prince Consort's letter to Baron Stockmar of April 2, 1858 :—

Next week he [the Prince of Wales] is to make a run for fourteen days to the South of Ireland with Mr. Gibbs, Captain de Ros, and Dr. Minter, by way of recreation. When he returns to London he is to take up his residence at the White Lodge in Richmond Park, so as to be away from the world and devote himself exclusively to study and prepare for a military examination. As companions for him we have appointed three very distinguished young men of from twenty-three to twenty-six years of age, who are to occupy in monthly rotation a kind of equerry's place about him, and from whose more intimate intercourse I anticipate no small benefit to Bertie. They are Lord Valletort, the eldest son of Lord Mount Edgcumbe, who has been much on the Continent, is a thoroughly good, moral, and accomplished man, draws well and plays, and never was at a public school, but passed his youth in attendance on his invalid father; Major Teesdale, of the Artillery, who distinguished himself greatly at Kars, where he was aide-de-camp and facto-

tum of Sir Fenwick Williams; Major Lindsay of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who received the Victoria Cross for Alma and Inkermann (as Teesdale did for Kars), where he carried the colours of the regiment, and by his courage drew upon himself the attention of the whole Army. He is studious in his habits, lives little with the other young officers, is fond of study, familiar with French, and especially so with Italian, spent a portion of his youth in Italy, won the first prize last week under the regimental adjutant for the new rifle drill, and resigned his excellent post as aide-de-camp of Sir James Simpson, that he might be able to work as lieutenant in the trenches.

Besides these three, only Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Tarver will go with him to Richmond. As future governor, when Gibbs retires at the beginning of next year, I have as yet been able to think of no one as likely to suit, except Colonel Bruce, Lord Elgin's brother, and his military secretary in Canada, who now commands one of the battalions of Grenadier Guards, and lives with his mother in Paris. He has all the amiability of his sister, with great mildness of expression, and is full of ability.

Of these early companions of King Edward, Lord Valletort succeeded to the earldom of Mount Edgcumbe in 1861; Major Teesdale was afterwards well known as Sir Christopher Teesdale; while Major Lindsay was appointed extra-equerri to the Prince of Wales in 1874, and was created Lord Wantage of Lockinge in 1885.

By Queen Victoria's special desire, Charles Kingsley about this time delivered a series of lectures on history to her eldest son, and the Prince remained truly attached to the famous author of "Westward Ho!" who till his death was an honoured guest at Sandringham and at Marlborough House.

On November 9 of the same year, King Edward attained his eighteenth year, and became legally heir to the Crown.

It is on record that Queen Victoria wrote to her eldest son a letter announcing his emancipation from parental control, and that he was so deeply touched by its perusal that he brought it to General Wellesley with tears in his eyes. We have the impartial testimony of Charles Greville as to the character of the epistle, which was, says the famous diarist, "one of the most admirable letters that ever was penned." On the same day the future Sovereign became a colonel in the Army (unattached), and received the Garter, while Colonel Bruce became his Governor.

Exactly a month after his birthday, King Edward started on a Continental tour, travelling more or less *incognito* as Lord Renfrew, and accompanied by Mr. Tarver, who had just been appointed his Chaplain and Director of Studies. The Royal youth stayed some time in Rome, and visited the Pope; but on April 29, 1859, the Prince Consort wrote to Baron Stockmar: "We have sent orders to the Prince of Wales to leave Rome, and to repair to Gibraltar." For it was very properly considered that, owing to the Franco-Italian and Austrian

imbroglio, it was far better that the heir to the British throne should be well out of the way of international dissensions. King Edward reached Gibraltar on May 7, and visited the south of Spain and Lisbon, returning home in the middle of the next month; and then, after having seen something of the world, he again took up a serious course of study—this time at Edinburgh.

Meanwhile the education and training of the Heir-Apparent was being watched very carefully by the British public, and a good many people began to consider that their future King was being over-educated; indeed, *Punch*, in some lines entitled, "A Prince at High Pressure," undoubtedly summed up the popular feeling, not only describing the past, but prophesying, with a great deal of shrewd insight, the future course of the Prince of Wales's studies:—

To the south from the north, from the shores of the Forth,
Where at hands Presbyterian pure science is quaffed,
The Prince, in a trice, is whipped to the Isis,
Where Oxford keeps springs mediæval on draught.

Dipped in grey Oxford mixture (lest *that* prove a fixture),
The poor lad's to be plunged in less orthodox Cam.,
Where dynamics and statics, and pure mathematics,
Will be piled on his brain's awful cargo of cram.

But the King seems to have borne his course of

study very well; and after his son had been in Edinburgh some three weeks, the Prince Consort wrote to Baron Stockmar :—

In Edinburgh I had an Educational Conference with all the persons who were taking part in the education of the Prince of Wales. They all speak highly of him, and he seems to have shown zeal and goodwill. Dr. Lyon Playfair is giving him lectures on chemistry in relation to manufactures, and at the close of each special course he visits the appropriate manufactory with him, so as to explain its practical application. Dr. Schmitz (the Director of the High School of Edinburgh, a German) gives him lectures on Roman history. Italian, German, and French are advanced at the same time; and three times a week the Prince exercises with the 16th Hussars, who are stationed in the city. Mr. Fisher, who is to be the tutor for Oxford, was also in Holyrood. Law and history are to be the subjects on which he is to prepare the Prince.

King Edward was at that time very fond of the writings of Sir Walter Scott. He was always a reader of fiction—French, English, and German—and as a youth he was studious and eager to learn.

The Royal scholar's holiday was spent in the Highlands, and he made an expedition up Ben Macdhui, one of the highest mountains in Scotland. Then, on November 9, his nineteenth birthday was celebrated with the whole of his family, for the Princess Royal had arrived from Berlin in order to spend the day with her brother.

On leaving Scotland he went up to Oxford, being

admitted a member of Christ Church. The King seems to have enjoyed thoroughly his life as an undergraduate. He joined freely in the social life of the University, and took part in all the sports, frequently hunting with the South Oxfordshire Hounds. Nor did he neglect his books, for we find the Prince Consort writing to Baron Stockmar on December 8, 1859, to say that "the Prince of Wales is working hard at Oxford."

It seems more convenient here to abandon the strictly chronological arrangement, and to leave the Prince's visit to Canada and the United States, which followed immediately, to be described in a separate chapter, passing on at once to his life at Cambridge.

Early in 1861, King Edward became an undergraduate member of Trinity College, Cambridge. Curiously enough, Dr. Whewell, at that time Master of Trinity, did not think it necessary to make a formal entry of the Royal undergraduate; but in 1883, when visiting Cambridge in order to enter his son, the late Duke of Clarence, as a student of Trinity, King Edward expressed the opinion that it was a pity that his own entry had not been properly filled up, and he offered to fill in the blank spaces if the book was brought to him. Accordingly,

the record may now be found at its proper place in the King's own handwriting. His entry is as follows :—

<i>Date of Entry.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Name.</i>
January 18th, 1861.	Nobleman.	Albert Edward Prince of Wales.
<i>Father's Christian Name.</i>	<i>Native Place.</i>	<i>County.</i>
Albert.	London.	Middlesex.
<i>School.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Tutor.</i>
Private Tutor.	November 9th, 1841.	Admitted by order of the Seniority, Mr. Mathison being his tutor.

The entry immediately preceding the King's name is that of the Hon. J. W. Strutt (now Lord Rayleigh), in connection with which the following absurd story is told. A visitor to the library (where the book is kept) having expressed her doubts as to King Edward's intellectual abilities, the librarian showed her the entry, and said : " You may be right in what you say, madam, but allow me to inform you that the Prince comes next to a former Senior Wrangler." The lady's astonishment may be imagined, she being of course ignorant that mere coincidence was the cause of the juxtaposition of the two names.

The position of the then Prince of Wales in the University was very much that of an ordinary

undergraduate, except in one point—that he was, by special favour, allowed to live with his governor, Colonel the Hon. Robert Bruce, about three miles away from Cambridge, in a little village called Madingley.

Charles Kingsley, at the Prince Consort's request, gave some private lectures to the Prince of Wales. The class was formed of eleven undergraduates, and after the Prince settled at Madingley, he rode three times a week to Mr. Kingsley's house, twice attending with the class, and once to go through a *résumé* of the week's work alone; and, according to the great writer's biographer, the tutor much appreciated the attention, courtesy, and intelligence of his Royal pupil, whose kindness to him then and in after life made him not only the Prince's loyal but his most attached servant.

King Edward certainly enjoyed his life at Cambridge. All sorts of stories, perhaps more or less apocryphal, used to be told as to his University career. He was not allowed quite as much freedom as the ordinary undergraduate, and Colonel Bruce had strict orders never to allow him to make any long journeys unaccompanied. On one occasion the King made up his mind that he would like to pay an *incognito* visit to London, and he succeeded

in evading the vigilance of those whose duty it was to attend him. His absence, however, was discovered before he could reach town, and to his surprise and mortification he was met at the terminus by the stationmaster and by two of the royal servants, who had been sent from Buckingham Palace for that purpose.

King Edward remained more or less constantly at Cambridge all the winter of 1861, and it was arranged that during the long vacation he was to go on military duty at the Curragh.

While he was quartered there, Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, and the young Princesses paid a short visit to Ireland in order to see him in his new character of soldier. On August 26, Her Majesty wrote in her diary :—

At a little before 3 we went to Bertie's hut, which is in fact Sir George Brown's. It is very comfortable—a nice little bedroom, sitting-room, drawing-room, and good-sized dining-room, where we lunched with our whole party. Colonel Percy commands the Guards, and Bertie is placed specially under him. I spoke to him, and thanked him for treating Bertie as he did, just like any other officer, for I know that he keeps him up to his work in a way, as General Bruce told me, that no one else has done ; and yet Bertie likes him very much.

to the peculiar aptness with which they had been framed to suit the circumstances of each locality where an address was likely to be received.

When it became known on the American continent that the Prince of Wales was really coming to Canada, the President of the United States, Mr. Buchanan, wrote to Queen Victoria explaining how cordial a welcome the Prince of Wales would receive at Washington should he extend his visit to the United States. Her Majesty returned a cordial answer, informing Mr. Buchanan, and through him the American people, that the Prince would return home through America, and that it would give him great pleasure to have an opportunity of testifying to the President in person the kindly feelings which animated the British nation towards America. At the same time the American people were told that the future British Sovereign would, from the moment of his leaving British soil, drop all Royal state, and that he would simply travel as "Lord Renfrew." In this again Her Majesty showed her great wisdom, for it would have been extremely awkward for the Prince of Wales, the descendant of King George III., to have visited the American Republic as Heir-Apparent to the British throne.

After a pleasant but uneventful voyage on board the frigate *Hero*, escorted by H.M.S. *Ariadne*, King Edward first stepped on Transatlantic soil at St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland, the oldest British colony, on July 24, 1860. The morning was rainy, but the moment His Royal Highness landed the sun shone out, bursting through the clouds, and this was considered by those present to be a very happy omen; and on that day King Edward may be said to have had his first glimpse of that round of official duties to which he seemed to take so naturally, and in which he was destined to become so expert.

The wife of the then Archdeacon of St. John's, in an interesting letter home, puts on record the impression produced by King Edward in Newfoundland:—

His appearance is very much in his favour, and his youth and royal dignified manners and bearing seem to have touched all hearts, for there is scarcely a man or woman who can speak of him without tears. The rough fishermen and their wives are quite wild about him, and we hear of nothing but their admiration. Their most frequent exclamation is, "God bless his pretty face and send him a good wife."

King Edward's tour through Canada may be said to have been one long triumphal procession. It was marred by no unpleasant incident, in spite

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of the fact that at Kingston and Toronto the Orangemen tried to induce the Prince to pass under arches decorated with their party symbols and mottoes. Thanks, however, to the Duke of Newcastle's tact and firmness, the attempt failed. Everywhere the Royal visitor produced the happiest impressions; and, thanks to his youth, he was able to endure considerable fatigue without apparently being any the worse for it.

In America "Lord Renfrew's" arrival was awaited with the utmost impatience, and while travelling over the Dominion His Royal Highness was surrounded by American reporters. Indeed, it is said that this was the first occasion on which press telegrams were used to any lavish extent, one enterprising journalist transmitting to his paper long chapters from the Bible in order to monopolise the wires while he was gathering material for his daily report of the Royal journey. At a great ball given in Quebec, the Prince tripped and fell with his partner, and the article recording this event was headed *Honi soit qui mal y pense!*

Many little stories were told at the time of the future King's good nature and affability. Hearing by accident that an old sailor who had served with Nelson on board the *Trafalgar* had been court-

martialled, he begged him off, and asked that he might be restored to his rank in the service.

The Canadian Government provided a number of riding-horses in order that King Edward might see Niagara Falls from several points of view, and he often declared afterwards that this was one of the finest sights he ever saw in his life. Next day, in the presence of the Royal party and of thousands of spectators, Canadian and American, the famous rope-walker Blondin crossed Niagara river upon a rope, walking upon stilts, and carrying a man upon his back. After the ordeal was over, Blondin had the honour of being presented to the Royal spectator. The latter, with much emotion, exclaimed, "Thank God, it is all over!" and begged him earnestly not to attempt the feat again; but the famous rope-walker asserted that there was no danger whatever, and offered to carry the Prince across on his back if he would go: but the Prince briefly declined!

King Edward formally crossed from Canadian territory to the States on the night of September 20, making his appearance on Republican soil, as had been arranged, as Lord Renfrew. At Hamilton, the last place in Canada where he halted, he made a speech, in the course of which he observed:—

My duties as Representative of the Queen cease this day, but in a private capacity I am about to visit before I return home that remarkable land which claims with us a common ancestry, and in whose extraordinary progress every Englishman feels a common interest.

Great as had been the enthusiasm in Canada, it may be said to have been nothing to the *furore* of excitement produced in America by the Prince's visit. At Detroit the crowds were so dense that the Royal party could not get to the hotel through the main streets, and had to be smuggled in at a side entrance. The whole city was illuminated; every craft on the river had hung out lamps, and, as one contemporary writer aptly put it, "there could not have been greater curiosity to see him if the distinguished visitor had been George Washington come to life again."

Over fifty thousand people came out to meet him at Chicago, then a village of unfinished streets; but there, for the first time, the Prince broke down from sheer fatigue, and the Duke of Newcastle decided that it would be better to break the trip from Chicago to St. Louis by stopping at a quiet village, famed even then for the good sport to be obtained in its neighbourhood. It was therefore arranged that His Royal Highness should have a day's shooting at Dwight's Station, and fourteen

brace of quails and four rabbits fell to the Prince's gun.

On October 30, "Lord Renfrew" reached Washington, and Lord Lyons, the British Minister, introduced him to President James Buchanan and Miss Harriet Lane, the latter's niece and house-keeper. King Edward stayed at the White House; and President Buchanan, though he could not spare his Royal guest a certain number of *levées* and receptions, did his best to make his visit to the official centre of the American Republic pleasant. During these five days there occurred a most interesting event—the visit of the future British Sovereign to Mount Vernon and the tomb of Washington. A representative of the *Times* gave the following eloquent account of the scene:—

Before this humble tomb the Prince, the President, and all the party stood uncovered. It is easy moralising on this visit, for there is something grandly suggestive of historical retribution in the reverential awe of the Prince of Wales, the great-grandson of George III., standing bareheaded at the foot of the coffin of Washington. For a few moments the party stood mute and motionless, and the Prince then proceeded to plant a chestnut by the side of the tomb. It seemed, when the Royal youth closed in the earth around the little germ, that he was burying the last faint trace of discord between us and our great brethren in the West.

Doubtless, King Edward enjoyed these new experiences a good deal more than did his guides,

philosophers, and friends. Political feeling ran high, and the pro-slavery leaders were very anxious to influence public sentiment in Great Britain. They formed the project of taking the Prince through the South to see slavery under its pleasantest aspect as a paternal institution. After a good deal of discussion between the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Lyons, it was felt better to accept the invitation of some representative Southerners, and accordingly the Prince went a short tour to Richmond; but it may be added that a great slave sale which had been widely advertised was postponed so as not to offend British susceptibilities. The Prince does not seem to have been at all impressed by the slave cities, and he flatly refused to leave his carriage to visit the negro quarters at one of the plantations.

The day that King Edward left Washington for Richmond, President Buchanan wrote a charming letter to Queen Victoria, in which he said, speaking of his guest :—

In our domestic circle he has won all hearts. His free and ingenuous intercourse with myself evinced both a kind heart and a good understanding.

From Washington, King Edward proceeded to Philadelphia, and his feelings must have been strangely stirred when he stood in Independence

Hall ; but he does not appear to have revealed them by making any remark, and after staying a few days in the capital of Pennsylvania, he started for New York, where he received a splendid welcome from "Father Knickerbocker." Half a million spectators saw him arrive, and so great was the anxiety to see Queen Victoria's eldest son at close quarters that there was no structure in New York large enough to contain those who thought they had—and who no doubt had—a right to meet the Prince at a social function.

At last a building was found capable of containing 6,000 people ; but, looking to the question of "crinolines and comfort," it was reluctantly decided that not more than 3,000 cards of invitation, admitting to the ball and to the supper to follow, should be sent out. Fortunately, most of the 3,000 guests were important people, and therefore too old to dance. They represented, in both senses of the word, the solid element in New York society—for, as they crowded round the Prince, the floor gave way, and it is a wonder that no serious accident took place.

During the five days that King Edward remained in New York he was the guest of the Mayor and the Corporation. He seems to have most enjoyed a parade of the Volunteer Fire Department in his

honour. There were 6,000 firemen in uniform, and all save those in charge of the ropes and tillers bore torches. It was a magnificent spectacle, and the Prince, as he looked at the brilliant display in Madison Square, is recorded to have cried repeatedly, "This is for me: this is all for me!" with unaffected glee.

From New York, King Edward went on to Albany and Boston, and at the latter place Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Emerson, and a number of other notable Americans were presented to him. He visited Harvard College, spent an hour at Mount Auburn, where he planted two trees, and drove out to Bunker's Hill.

On October 20, the Royal party set sail for home on board the *Hero*, which was escorted by the *Ariadne*, the *Nile*, and the *Styx*. The voyage home was not as uneventful as had been the voyage out. So anxious did they become at Court about the fate of the *Hero* that two ships of war were sent in search of the frigate and her escort. At last, to every one's great relief, the *Hero* was sighted, and it was ascertained that a sudden storm had driven the boat back from the British coast, and the Royal party had been reduced to salt fare, with only a week's provisions in store.

CHAPTER V.

DEATH OF THE PRINCE CONSORT—TOUR IN THE EAST.

KING EDWARD'S visit to Germany in the autumn of 1861 is explained by Sir Theodore Martin, in his "Life of the Prince Consort," to have been made with another object in view besides that of seeing the military manœuvres in the Rhenish provinces. It had been arranged that he was to make the acquaintance of the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who was then on a visit to Germany, with a view to a marriage, should the meeting result in mutual attachment.

In spite, however, of every precaution to ensure secrecy, until at least the inclinations of the principal parties should have been ascertained, the project leaked out; and even before they met it was actually canvassed, much to the Prince Consort's annoyance, in the Continental papers. From these it soon found its way into the English journals, where it met with general approval; but as the

meeting, which took place at Speier and Heidelberg on September 24 and 25, ended with the happiest results, no harm was done, though in other circumstances it might have been extremely painful.

"We hear nothing but excellent accounts of the Princess Alexandra," Prince Albert notes in his Diary on September 30; and he adds, with evident satisfaction, that "the young people seem to have taken a warm liking for each other." In October the Prince Consort writes to Baron Stockmar:—

The Prince of Wales leaves to-morrow for Cambridge. He came back greatly pleased with his interview with the Princess of Holstein at Speier. . . . His present wish, after his time at the University is up, which it will be at Christmas, is to travel; and we have gladly assented to his proposal to visit the Holy Land. This, under existing circumstances, is the most useful tour he can make, and will occupy him till early in June.

Prince Albert paid a hurried visit on November 28 to Cambridge in order to visit the Prince of Wales. The weather was wet and stormy, and he returned to Windsor with a heavy cold.

The story of those sad days is well known. As time went on, Prince Albert grew slightly worse rather than better, but no real danger was apprehended by those nearest and dearest to him, and Queen Victoria would not hear of having the Prince of Wales summoned; until at last Princess Alice,

who behaved with extraordinary fortitude and self-possession, felt that she must send for her eldest brother on her own responsibility. She accordingly did so, and King Edward was always, up to the day of his death, very grateful to her for her prompt action, because it enabled him to arrive in time to be present at his beloved father's deathbed.

The funeral of the Prince Consort took place on December 23, the service being held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The chief mourner was, of course, the Prince of Wales, who was supported, in the absence of Prince Alfred (Duke of Edinburgh), by Prince Arthur (Duke of Connaught). All those present were deeply moved by the grief of the two young princes. They both hid their faces, and after the coffin had been lowered into the vault the Prince of Wales advanced to take a last look; then, his fortitude deserting him, he burst into a flood of tears.

Sad, indeed, were the days that followed. The effect of his father's death on King Edward's affectionate and sensitive nature was terrible, and those about the Court felt that something must be done to rouse him from his grief.

As we have already seen, the Prince Consort, not long before his death, had assented to his eldest son's

proposal of making a tour in the Holy Land; and it had also been his earnest wish that the Prince should on that occasion be accompanied by the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, who had himself already taken a journey to Jerusalem. And so, when the tour was decided upon as a means of rousing the Prince of Wales from his stupor of grief, Queen Victoria made up her mind that she would be guided by her late Consort's wishes, and General Bruce was commanded to write to Dr. Stanley, but not till he reached Osborne was he actually asked whether he would consent to undertake the responsibility.

Dr. Stanley, though he regarded the proposal with reluctance and misgiving—for he could not bear to leave his aged mother, to whom he was most tenderly devoted—consented to do as Her Majesty wished. It was ultimately arranged that he should meet the Prince at Alexandria, ascend the Nile with him, and accompany him, not only through the Holy Land, but on the Egyptian portion of the expedition. Accordingly, on February 28, King Edward, accompanied by General Bruce, Major Teesdale, Captain Keppel, and a small suite, was joined by Dr. Stanley, the party at once proceeding to Cairo.

They visited the Pyramids together, and then resumed their voyage, the Prince characteristically persuading Dr. Stanley to read "East Lynne," a book which had greatly struck his imagination. When recording the circumstance, Dr. Stanley adds :—

It is impossible not to like him, and to be constantly with him brings out his astonishing memory of names and persons. . . . I am more and more struck by the amiable and endearing qualities of the Prince. . . . His Royal Highness had himself laid down a rule that there was to be no shooting to-day (Sunday), and though he was sorely tempted, as we passed flocks of cranes and geese seated on the bank in the most inviting crowds, he rigidly conformed to it; a crocodile was allowed to be a legitimate exception, but none appeared. He sat alone on the deck with me, talking in the frankest manner, for an hour in the afternoon, and made the most reasonable and proper remarks on the due observance of Sunday in England.

A few days later the Royal party reached Palestine, and it is interesting to note that this was the first time that the heir to the English throne, since the days of Edward I. and Eleanor, had visited the Holy City.

King Edward landed at Jaffa on March 31; and, both on his entrance into the Holy Land and during his approach to Jerusalem, he followed in the footsteps of Richard Cœur de Lion and Edward I. The cavalcade, escorted by a troop of Turkish cavalry, climbed the Pass of Bethhoron, catching their first glimpse of Jerusalem from the spot where Richard

is recorded to have hidden his face in his shield, with the words, " Ah, Lord God, if I am not thought worthy to win back the Holy Sepulchre, I am not worthy to see it ! "

The King carefully explored Jerusalem and its neighbourhood, riding over the hills of Judæa to Bethlehem, walking through the famous groves of Jericho, and staying some time at Bethany.

" Late in the afternoon," writes Dr. Stanley, " we reached Bethany. I then took my place close beside the Prince. Every one else fell back by design or accident, and at the head of the cavalcade we moved on towards the famous view. This was the one half-hour which, throughout the journey, I had determined to have alone with the Prince, and I succeeded."

During Dr. Stanley's previous journey to the Holy Land he had not been permitted to visit the closely-guarded cave of Machpelah; but on this occasion, thanks to the diplomacy of General Bruce, not only the King, but also his chaplain, were allowed to set foot within the sacred precincts. Even to Royal personages the Mosque of Hebron had remained absolutely barred for nearly seven hundred years, and on the present occasion the Turkish official in charge declared that—

For no one but for the eldest son of the Queen of England would he have allowed the gate to be opened; indeed the princes of any other nation should have passed over his body before doing so.

King Edward, with his usual thoughtfulness, had made Dr. Stanley's entrance with himself a condition of his going in at all; and when the latter went up to the King to thank him and say that but for him he would never have had this great opportunity, the young man answered with touching and almost reproachful simplicity, "High station, you see, sir, has, after all, some merits, some advantages." "Yes, sir," replied Dr. Stanley; "and I hope that you will always make as good a use of it."

It was very characteristic of King Edward's readiness to take any trouble to please those dear to him that wherever he went he collected a number of flowers or leaves from every famous spot. These, after having been carefully dried by him, were sent to his sister, the Princess Royal, afterwards the Empress Frederick, who had a particular taste for such memorials.

It was very soon after his return from the East that the King played for the first time an important part in a family gathering—the wedding of his favourite sister, Princess Alice, to Prince Louis of Hesse. The bride was given away by her uncle, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, but the young Prince of Wales acted as master of the house during the quiet week which preceded the ceremony.

CHAPTER VI.

THE WEDDING OF KING EDWARD AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

AS is very generally known, the marriage of King Edward to Princess Alexandra of Denmark was brought about in quite a romantic fashion, and it is said that long before his late Majesty saw his future wife he was very much attracted by a glimpse of her photograph, shown him by one of his friends.

A more authoritative story of a photograph is told in the memoir of the late Duchess of Teck. The meeting at Heidelberg in September 1861, already referred to, took place when the Danish Princess and her father were on their way to join one of those famous family gatherings at Rumpenheim, and the Duchess of Teck's biographer writes :—

As soon as the Princess arrived at the Hessian Palace, her cousins were most anxious to hear all about the meeting, and much excitement followed when Princess Alexandra, producing a photograph from her pocket, laughingly exclaimed, "I have got him here !"

It is certain that though many Princesses had

been spoken of in connection with the future King, and at one time negotiations were actually impending with a view to his engagement to the daughter of a German Royal House, all such schemes were instantly abandoned after he had seen the beautiful Danish Princess, and another meeting is said to have taken place in the Cathedral of Worms during the earlier part of 1861. The Prince, accompanied by his tutor and equerry, had gone to examine the frescoes, and when wandering through the beautiful old cathedral, they met Prince Christian of Denmark and his daughter intent on the same object.

Later, after the Prince Consort's death, during a short visit which he paid to his cousin, the King of the Belgians, the Heir-Apparent again met Princess Alexandra; and it was while the Prince and Princess were both staying at Laeken that Queen Victoria's formal consent to her son's making a Danish alliance was granted. The formal betrothal took place on September 9, 1862, but even then what had occurred was only known to a comparatively small circle of friends and relations; for it was not till the eve of the late Sovereign's coming of age that his engagement was formally announced in the *London Gazette*, and so made known to the whole British Empire.

The announcement roused the greatest enthusiasm; for, deep as had been the public sympathy with Her Majesty, a widowed Court could not but cast a very real gloom, not only over society, but over all those directly and indirectly interested in the sumptuary trades and the wide distribution of wealth. It was universally felt that the marriage of the Heir-Apparent would inaugurate a new era of prosperity, and scarce a dissenting voice was raised to oppose the grant voted by the House of Commons for the Royal couple.

On the proposal of Lord Palmerston, it was decided that the Prince of Wales should receive from the country an income of £40,000 a year, with an added £10,000 a year to be specially set apart for the Princess. And so it came to pass that the Heir-Apparent and his bride began house-keeping with an income of somewhat over £100,000 a year; for, owing to the Prince Consort's foresight and good sense, out of the savings made during his son's long minority, Sandringham, of which the initial cost was £220,000, had been purchased.

Although Princess Alexandra had visited England as a child, in order to make the acquaintance of her great-aunt, the Duchess of Cambridge, it was at Laeken that she was presented to her future

mother-in-law, Queen Victoria, who was then paying a visit *incognito* to King Leopold. Later on, the young Princess, accompanied by her father, paid Queen Victoria an informal visit at Osborne. She did not on this occasion come to London, or take part in any public function, but rumours of her beauty and of her charm of manner had become rife, and as the wedding day, which had been fixed for March 10, approached, the public interest and excitement were strung to the highest pitch. It was felt that Denmark's loss was Britain's gain, and Alfred Tennyson, the Poet Laureate, voiced most happily the universal feeling in his fine lines :—

“ Clash, ye bells, in the merry March air !

Flash, ye cities, in rivers of fire !

And welcome her, welcome the land's desire,

Alexandra.

With what feelings the event was regarded among King Edward's near relatives may be estimated from the following characteristically warm-hearted references in the Diary of the late Duchess of Teck, whose mother, the Duchess of Cambridge, was the bride's great-aunt :—

Brighton, November 9.—The Prince of Wales—God bless him !—attains his majority (21) to-day. After luncheon we watched anxiously for the expected and longed-for arrival of dear Christian, who was on his way back to Copenhagen, having

established Alix at Osborne. At half-past three we had the happiness of welcoming him, and for upwards of three hours sat talking over the *Verlobung* [betrothal] of Alix and Bertie. We had much to hear and discuss, and while fully sharing his happiness at the marriage we could enter into his feelings at leaving Alix thus for the first time. We dined at eight o'clock, a party of five, and toasted our dear Prince in champagne.

Cambridge Cottage, November 21.— . . . We reached Windsor Castle about twelve, and were shown into our old Lancaster Tower rooms, where we were presently joined by darling Alix, —too overjoyed at the meeting to speak!—dear Alice and Louis; after a while Alix took me to her room. . . . I then returned to the others, and we went with Alice to see her rooms in the Devil's Tower, where Louis was being *sketched*; here the poor dear Queen joined us and remained with us for some time. We lunched without Her Majesty, and Beatrice came in afterwards. . . . Went into Alix's room again and played to her *en souvenir de Rumpenheim*, afterwards accompanying her into all the state-rooms, Mama, Alice, Louis, and Helena being also of the party. On our return Mama and I were summoned to the Queen's Closet, and had a nice little talk with her, ending with tea. We were hurried off shortly before five, Alix, Alice, and the others rushing after us to bid us good-bye.

Even the humblest of His Majesty's subjects usually finds a good deal to do in the weeks that precede his marriage, and it will be easily understood that the high station of the future King rather augmented than diminished these engrossing occupations. He had to receive and suitably acknowledge countless addresses of congratulation from individuals, corporations, and other public bodies; he had to superintend the extensive alterations which were still being carried out at Marlborough

House ; he had to pass in review the innumerable details of the various elaborate functions which were to mark the occasion of his marriage ; and last but not least, it was considered desirable that he should now go through the somewhat trying ceremony of taking his seat in the House of Lords.

Nearly three-quarters of a century had elapsed since the Heir-Apparent to the British Crown had taken the oath and his seat as a peer of the realm. It was on February 5, 1863, that King Edward went through this historic ceremony ; and it is a curious fact that the business before the House of Lords on that occasion was an Address from the Crown to the British Parliament announcing the Prince's approaching marriage.

The Prince wore the scarlet and ermine robes of a duke over the uniform of a general. He also wore the Orders of the Garter, the Golden Fleece, and the Star of India. As he entered the House the Peers rose in a body, the Lord Chancellor alone remaining seated and covered with his official hat. His Royal Highness then advanced to the Wool-sack, and placed his patent of peerage and writ of summons in the hands of the Lord Chancellor. The oaths were administered to him at the table by the Clerk of Parliament, the titles under which

the Prince was sworn being those of Duke of Cornwall, Earl of Chester, Earl of Carrick, Duke of Rothesay, and Lord of the Isles.

About an hour later, His Royal Highness re-entered the House dressed in ordinary afternoon costume, and took his seat on one of the cross-benches—thereby formally dissociating himself from either political party.

As is well known, the only votes which King Edward ever gave in the House of Lords were in favour of the Bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister; but he was, as Prince of Wales, a constant visitor at the Houses of Parliament when anything of special interest was going on.

The Danish people were extremely pleased at the marriage their Princess was making, and so determined were they that she should not go dowerless that 100,000 kroner, known as "the People's Dowry," were presented to her; and countless presents poured in upon her from all over the sea-girt kingdom. By the Princess's own wish, 3,000 thalers were distributed among six Danish brides belonging to the poorer classes during the year of Her Royal Highness's marriage. The fact became known, and naturally greatly added to Her Royal Highness's popularity; and from the day she left Copenhagen

to that on which she landed on British soil, the journey of Prince Christian and his family, for Princess Alexandra was accompanied by her father and mother and brothers and sisters, was nothing short of a triumphal progress.

The Royal *cortège* left Denmark on February 26, reaching Cologne on March 2. There the Prince of Wales's *fiancée* received the first greetings of her future husband's people, the British residents. The whole party were also royally entertained at Brussels by the Count of Flanders; and at Flushing they found a squadron of British men-of-war to escort the Royal yacht, which had steamed slowly up the river amid craft splendidly decorated with flags and flowers, anchored opposite the pier at Gravesend. A moment later the Prince of Wales stepped on board. As His Royal Highness reached the deck, Princess Alexandra advanced to the door of the State cabin to meet him; and, to the great delight of the assembled crowds ashore and afloat, the Prince, walking quickly towards his bride, took her by the hand and kissed her most affectionately.

Then followed the procession through London; every street, from the humblest portions of the East End to the great West End thoroughfares, was lavishly decorated, and the Prince and Princess

accepted addresses presented by the Corporation and many other London public bodies.

The Princess of Wales gave some special sittings for a medal which was struck to commemorate her public entry into the City of London, and it remains one of the finest examples of Wyon's art. The reverse represents Princess Alexandra, led by the Prince of Wales, and attended by Hymen, being welcomed by the City of London, who is accompanied by Peace and Plenty, the latter carrying the diamond necklace and ear-rings which the City presented to the Princess as a wedding present. In the background is the triumphal arch erected by the Corporation at London Bridge, where Her Royal Highness first entered the City precincts.

The Princess must have been glad when that long day came to an end—for the Royal train from Paddington to Windsor did not start till a quarter past five, and thus from early morning till late in the afternoon the future Queen had been compelled to remain the cynosure of all eyes. It is an interesting fact that the engine which took the Princess to Windsor was driven by the Earl of Caithness, then the best known amateur locomotive engineer of the day.

As may easily be imagined, the Royal borough

was determined not to be outdone by London in the matter of a bridal welcome. The Eton boys presented an address signed by the whole Eight Hundred; and then came the arrival at the Castle, where Queen Victoria, surrounded by all her children and a large number of Royal visitors, received her future daughter-in-law.

King Edward held his first *levée* within a few days of his wedding, over a thousand gentlemen having the honour of being presented to him—the presentations, by Queen Victoria's pleasure, being considered as equal to presentations to Her Majesty. King Edward himself ordered and examined the designs for all the gifts about to be presented by him to his bride, and to her family, whom he specially wished to honour. His first present to her, the engagement ring, afterwards served as keeper for Queen Alexandra's wedding ring. It is a very beautiful example of the jeweller's art, being set with six precious stones—a beryl, an emerald, a ruby, a turquoise, a jacinth, and a second emerald, the initials of the six gems spelling the Prince's family name, "Bertie." The Royal bridegroom's gifts also included a complete set of diamonds and pearls, comprising diadem, necklace, stomacher, and bracelet; also a very beautiful waist-clasp,

formed of two large turquoises inlaid with Arabic characters and mounted in gold.

The marriage of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, which took place on March 10, 1863, was the first Royal marriage which had been celebrated in St. George's Chapel since that of Henry I. in 1122. Only nine hundred persons were admitted to the chapel to witness what was perhaps the most magnificent pageant of the nineteenth century.

Queen Victoria surveyed the scene from the Royal Closet, which, placed on the north side of the communion table, is really a small room in the body of the Castle with a window opening into the Chapel. Her Majesty was clad in deep black, even to her gloves, and she wore a close-fitting widow's cap; but, in deference to the occasion, she had consented to put on the broad blue riband of the Order of the Garter and glittering star.

The bridegroom was supported by his uncle, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and his brother-in-law, the Crown Prince of Prussia, and wore the uniform of a British General, the Collar of the Garter, the Order of the Star of India, and the rich flowing purple velvet mantle of a Knight of the Garter. His supporters also wore the robes of the Garter.

Princess Alexandra, who was given away by her father, wore, according to the notions of that day, a very beautiful and splendid wedding dress. It consisted of a white satin skirt, trimmed with garlands of orange blossom and puffings of tulle and Honiton lace, the bodice being draped with the same lace, while the train of silver moire antique was covered with nosegays of orange blossom and puffings of tulle. On her beautiful hair, which was very simply dressed, lay a wreath of orange blossoms, covered by a veil of Honiton lace.

The bridal bouquet was composed of orange blossoms, white rosebuds, orchids, and sprigs of myrtle, the latter being taken from the same bush as that from which the myrtle used in the Princess Royal's bridal bouquet was cut.

As the Princess moved slowly up the Chapel her train was carried by eight bridesmaids—Lady Victoria Scott, Lady Victoria Howard, Lady Agneta Yorke, Lady Feodora Wellesley, Lady Diana Beauclerk, Lady Georgina Hamilton, Lady Alma Bruce, and Lady Helena Hare. They each wore dresses of white tulle over white glacé silk, trimmed with blush roses, shamrocks, and white heather, with wreaths to correspond; and each also wore a locket presented to her by the Prince of Wales, composed

of coral and diamonds, signifying the red and white which are the colours of Denmark, while in the centre of each was a crystal cipher forming the letters "A. E. A." twined together in a monogram designed by Princess Alice.

The ceremony itself, which was timed to begin exactly at midday, did not last very long. The Prince is recorded to have answered his "I will" right manfully, but the Princess's answers were almost inaudible. As soon as the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alexandra were man and wife, they turned to the congregation hand in hand, bowing low to the Queen, who, in returning the salutation, made a gesture of blessing rather than of ceremonious acknowledgment.

The late Bishop Wilberforce thus describes the scene in the Chapel :—

The wedding was certainly the most moving sight I ever saw. The Queen, above all, looking down, added such a wonderful chord of feeling to all the lighter notes of joyfulness and show. Every one behaved quite at their best. The Princess of Wales, calm, feeling, self-possessed; the Prince with more depth of manner than ever before.

Dr. Norman Macleod wrote :—

I returned home and went back to the marriage on the 10th of March. . . . I got behind Kingsley, Stanley, Birch, and in a famous place, being in front of the Royal pair. We saw better than any except the clergy. It was a gorgeous sight, yet somehow did not excite me. I suppose I am past this.

Two things struck me much. One was the whole of the Royal Princesses weeping, though concealing their tears with their bouquets, as they saw their brother, who was to them but their "Bertie," and their dead father's son, standing alone waiting for his bride. The other was the Queen's expression as she raised her eyes to heaven, while her husband's Chorale was sung. She seemed to be with him alone before the throne of God.

It may be added that among those present at the marriage, and afterwards at the wedding breakfast, were the Rev. H. M. Birch and the Rev. C. F. Tarver, the Prince's tutors; and when lunch was over, these gentlemen were informed that their old pupil sent them a souvenir of himself, of which he desired their acceptance. This souvenir proved to be in each case a copy of the Holy Scriptures, handsomely bound, and containing an inscription in His Royal Highness's own handwriting.

While the marriage was actually in progress the King of Denmark was entertaining both the rich and poor in his kingdom; and it must have been a pleasant thought for the Princess to know that her marriage was filling with gladness innumerable multitudes, both of her own people and of her husband's future subjects.

CHAPTER VII.

EARLY MARRIED LIFE.

AT the outset of their married life, King Edward and Queen Alexandra were called upon to perform the public duties of the Sovereign, which, since the Prince Consort's death, had in some measure necessarily devolved upon the Duke of Cambridge and his family.

One of the first public appearances made by King Edward after his marriage was at the Royal Academy dinner, where he made an excellent short speech, greatly impressing those who were present by his modesty and good sense. Sir Charles Eastlake was then President of the Royal Academy, and Lady Eastlake gives this amusing account of the affair in her reminiscences :—

All went perfectly well at the Royal Academy dinner. My husband was quite enchanted with the Prince of Wales, and with his natural manners and simplicity. The Prince hesitated in the middle of his speech, so that everybody thought it was all up with him ; but he persisted in thinking till he recovered

the thread, and then went on well. The very manner in which he did this was natural and graceful. He was so moved when mentioning his father that it was feared he would break down. After the speech the Prince turned to my husband and told him he was quite provoked with himself. "I knew it quite by heart in the morning;" but he evidently had no vanity, for he laughed at his own "stupidity," and immediately recovered his spirits. "Hesse" was next the Prince, who chaffed him from time to time, and told him he would have to sing a song.

Thackeray was among the other speakers at the Academy dinner, which was very shortly before the famous novelist's death. At the anniversary of the Royal Literary Fund some months later, King Edward made some graceful and appropriate allusions to the great writer whom the Empire had lost. He spoke with evident feeling of the fact that Thackeray had been the life of the Fund, always ready to open his purse for the relief of literary men struggling with pecuniary difficulties.

In June the Royal couple attended "Commem." at Oxford. They received a splendid welcome both from the University authorities and undergraduates. The honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law was conferred on King Edward in the Sheldonian Theatre, where the wildest uproar prevailed, till amid a sudden lull of perfect silence Queen Alexandra entered with Dr. Liddell, the then Dean of Christ Church. Scarcely had she traversed half the distance to her

seat when a cheer loud and deep arose, and seemed to shake the theatre to its foundation.

Shortly after their visit to Oxford the Prince and Princess celebrated their house-warming at Marlborough House by an evening party and a ball. During the summer months they spent some time at Sandringham in the original house, which at that time stood in an isolated park, and which was afterwards pulled down and superseded by the present very much larger and more comfortable mansion. There can be no doubt that Queen Alexandra's strong affection for her country home is based on the tender recollections of her early married life. It is a significant fact that when the new Sandringham House was built, she begged that her boudoir in the new mansion might be arranged so as to be an exact reproduction of her boudoir in the old house.

One Friday evening early in January, shortly after Queen Alexandra had been skating on Virginia Water, near Windsor, her eldest child appeared so unexpectedly that for a while the Royal baby had to be wrapped in cotton wool, the *layette* which was in course of preparation being at Marlborough House.

The rejoicings over the event, both in this coun-

try and in Denmark, were naturally very great, more especially when it became known that the Royal infant was none the worse for his early arrival. At the time of the birth of the Duke of Clarence, Queen Alexandra was not yet twenty; but, like Queen Victoria, she seems to have been wholly absorbed in her maternal duties, and at any moment she would joyfully give up attending a State function or ball in order to spend an hour in her nursery.

It need hardly be said that the first portion of the Prince and Princess's married life was overshadowed by the war between Denmark and Prussia. The young Princess was naturally strongly patriotic in her sympathies. At breakfast one morning a foolish equerry read out a telegram which announced a success of the Austro-Prussian forces, whereupon Her Royal Highness burst into tears; and the Prince, it is said, thoroughly lost his temper for once, and rated his equerry as soundly as his ancestor, King Henry VIII., might have done. An amusing story went the round of the clubs about this time. It was said that a Royal visitor at Windsor asked Princess Beatrice what she would like for a present. The child stood in doubt, and begged the Princess of Wales to advise her. The result of a whispered

conversation between the two was that the little Princess declared aloud that she would like to have Bismarck's head on a charger !

In July 1864 the Prince laid the foundation-stone of the new west wing of the London Hospital. He was accompanied by the Princess. This was one of the first occasions on which King Edward showed his great interest in hospital management. The fact that there was a separate ward for the Jews aroused his keen interest.

In the middle of August they went to the Highlands, visiting Stirling Castle on the way. They spent some weeks at Abergeldie, entertaining a great deal. Dr. Norman Macleod stayed with them there. It was during this stay in Scotland that the Prince and Princess first became intimate with the family of their future son-in-law ; and the Countess of Fife, his mother, gave a great picnic in their honour.

The year 1865 proved an eventful one to both King Edward and his wife. King Edward paid his first State visit to Ireland, opening the International Exhibition of Dublin on May 9, and a little less than a month later Prince George of Wales was born at Marlborough House.

Although there have at various times been more or

less serious fires in Royal residences—Sandringham, for instance, having been almost destroyed by a conflagration, the King was only once really in a fire, and this was just a month after his second son's birth. The fire began in the floor then styled the nursery floor; and after Queen Alexandra had been moved to another part of the house with her two children, King Edward set to work with the utmost energy to check the flames. It need hardly be said that very soon the whole of London seemed to be congregated in Pall Mall and St. James's Park. At first it could not be made out where the fire was coming from, and the King helped to rip up the whole of the nursery floor before the mischief could be traced; and while doing so, he nearly had a bad accident, for he fell some distance through the rafters. At last, however, the fire was got under, and it was found that comparatively little harm had been done. Then for the first time it occurred to some one to ask if Marlborough House was insured, and, strangely enough, it was found that this precaution had not been taken.

King Edward from childhood always showed the keenest interest in firemen and fires. During many years of his life he used to be informed whenever a really big blaze was signalled, and he attended

incognito most of the great London fires of his generation.

In the same year the King visited the gigantic steamship *Great Eastern* off Sheerness, in order to see the Atlantic telegraph cable, which had just been completed. He was received by a number of prominent engineers, and while he was present the last section of the cable was being wound into the tanks on board the *Great Eastern* from the vessel alongside which had brought it from the works at Greenwich. A message was sent through one of the coils, the length of which was equivalent to the distance from Sheerness to Valentia. The signals transmitted "God save the Queen," and were received at the other end of the coil in the course of a few seconds—a fact which, commonplace as it now seems, struck the onlookers in the year 1865 with amazement.

All this time, Queen Victoria was living in the strictest retirement, and the great shadow of the Prince Consort's death had thrown scarcely less gloom over the life of his eldest son. King Edward mourned deeply for his father, and it is significant that he never lost an opportunity of testifying in his public speeches to the high purpose and noble aims which had distinguished Prince Albert's life. To the cost of the mausoleum at Frogmore the then

Prince of Wales contributed from his private purse no less a sum than £10,000.

In 1866, when the Austro-German war was going on, King Edward established special telegraphic communication between Marlborough House and the seat of war. Like his mother, he was ever a shrewd observer of foreign politics, and he afterwards kept up in every important war the practice of securing the earliest possible telegraphic information, notably in the Franco-Prussian, the Russo-Turkish, and the Greco-Turkish wars, but most of all in the Boer war.

In the summer of 1866 the King laid the foundation-stone of the new building of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In his speech the King recalled the fact that only sixty-three years previously Mr. Wilberforce had met with a few friends in a small room in a dingy counting-house and had established the Society. The King further said:—

I have an hereditary claim to be here on this occasion. My grandfather, the Duke of Kent, warmly advocated the claims of the Society, and it is gratifying to me to reflect that the two modern versions of the Scriptures more widely circulated than any others—the German and the English—were both in their origin connected with my family. The translation of Martin Luther was executed under the protection of the Elector of Saxony, the collateral ancestor of my lamented father; whilst that of William Tyndale—the foundation of the present Authorised

English Version—was introduced with the sanction of the Royal predecessor of my mother the Queen, who first desired that “the Bible shall have free course through all Christendom, but especially in my own realm.” It is my hope and trust that, under the Divine guidance, the wider diffusion and a deeper study of the Scriptures will, in this as in every age, be at once the surest guarantee of the progress and liberty of mind, and the means of multiplying in the present form the consolations of our holy religion.

In the autumn following, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, accompanied by their two sons, visited the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Dunrobin. At that time the most northern point of railway communication was at Ardgay, and thence the King and Queen had to drive a distance of twenty-five miles before they could reach Dunrobin Castle. All along the route they received a most enthusiastic welcome. King Edward reviewed the Sutherland Volunteers in the grounds of the Castle; and later, on the same day, the Duke of Sutherland announced that it was the wish of His Majesty that the whole of the corps should adopt the kilt as their uniform, His Majesty having a preference for the national costume.

Shortly after their return from Scotland, King Edward and Queen Alexandra had the pleasure of entertaining the Queen of Denmark and her two younger children, and they spent some time at

Sandringham with Queen Alexandra ; while the King went to Russia in order to be present at the marriage of his sister-in-law, Princess Dagmar, to the then Tsarewitch. Thenceforward, King Edward was always known to have a great liking for Russia and the Russian people, and he was himself very popular in St. Petersburg.

The year 1867 was, if not very eventful, an anxious one, for both before and after the birth of Princess Louise (the Princess Royal) on February 20, Queen Alexandra suffered from acute rheumatism and inflammation of the knee-joint. Her illness caused so much anxiety at the Danish Court that her father and mother came over and spent some time in London. King Edward was most devoted in his attentions to the invalid, and actually had his bureau moved into her sick-room in order that he might not be separated from her in her convalescence even by the imperious demands of his enormous correspondence. Happily, Queen Alexandra grew quite strong again ; but the serious nature of her illness may be judged from the fact that she was not able to drive out until July 9 ; and naturally for the rest of that year the King and Queen lived very quietly and went about as little as possible.

Five years after their marriage the King and Queen paid a visit to Ireland, and their reception was marked by a very genuine demonstration of cordiality, and even of enthusiasm. On arriving in Kingstown Harbour, Queen Alexandra was presented, as Queen Victoria had been in 1849, with a white dove, emblematic of the affection and goodwill which she was supposed to be bringing to the distressful country. King Edward, with his usual tact, declared it to be his wish that no troops should be present in the streets of Dublin. Entire reliance was accordingly placed on the loyalty and hospitable spirit of the people ; and, in spite of many doleful prognostications to the contrary, the Royal visit was successful from every point of view.

It was often asserted that King Edward was fonder of the Emerald Isle than any other member of his family ; he certainly numbered several Irishmen among his closest friends. Although he thoroughly enjoyed his visit, this week in 1868 was one of the most tiring ever spent by his late Majesty. Like his younger son, twenty-nine years later, the King was installed with great pomp as a Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, on which occasion he used the sword worn by King George IV. King Edward also unveiled with much ceremony a statue of

Edmund Burke. A contemporary chronicler described the exertions entailed by the Royal visit in the following vivid passage :—

There were presentations and receptions, and receiving and answering addresses, processions, walking, riding and driving, in morning and evening, military, academic, and mediæval attire. The Prince had to breakfast, lunch, dine, and sup, with more or less publicity, every twenty-four hours. He had to go twice to races, with fifty or a hundred thousand people about him ; to review a small army and make a tour in the Wicklow mountains—of course everywhere receiving addresses under canopies and dining in State under galleries full of spectators. He visited and inspected institutions, colleges, universities, academies, libraries, and cattle shows. He had to take a very active part in assemblies of from several hundred to several thousand dancers, and always to select for his partners the most important personages. . . . He had to listen to many speeches sufficiently to know when and what to answer. He had to examine with respectful interest, pictures, books, antiquities, relics, manuscripts, specimens, bones, fossils, prize beasts, and works of Irish art. He had never to be unequal to the occasion, however different from the last, or however like the last, and whatever his disadvantage as to the novelty or dullness of the matter and the scene.

On their way back from Dublin the Prince and Princess of Wales visited North Wales ; and on landing at Holyhead they passed along the pier through a double line of aged Welshwomen, who were all wearing the tall hat and national dress of the Principality. At Carnarvon the Prince inaugurated some new waterworks, and after this ceremony the Royal party proceeded to the famous castle, where they

were presented with an address from the Council of the national Eisteddfod. The Prince replied in a neat little speech, in which he observed that he and the Princess received the address with peculiar satisfaction on the anniversary of the birth, on April 25, 1284, and in the very birthplace, of the first Prince of Wales, "Edward of Carnarvon," the son of Edward I.

King Edward's fourth child, the Princess Victoria, was born July 6, and after a quiet summer spent at Sandringham, the King and Queen, attended by a small suite, left Marlborough House in November for a long Continental tour which extended over some months, and enabled them to renew old ties and make new friendships. They spent a few days in Paris, and paid a visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French at Compiègne, where, during a stag hunt organised in honour of King Edward, an accident happened which might easily have cost him his life. As he was galloping along one of the grassy drives of the forest, a stag rushed from one of the cross-paths and knocked him and his horse completely over. Fortunately, he was not hurt, though much bruised and shaken. Without alarming those about him, he again mounted and went on hunting to the end of the day. At this house-

party the King and Queen had as fellow-guests Marshal Bazaine, Count von Moltke, and a number of other notable people destined to make history.

Queen Alexandra's birthday, December 1, was spent in Denmark. After a short stay there the travellers went to Berlin, where a large family party was assembled to meet them; and on January 18, which is, curiously enough, one of the only two days of the year in which it can be held, a Chapter of the Order of the Black Eagle was convened, and King Edward was formally invested with the insignia of this, the highest Order in Germany, by the King of Prussia, to whom he was introduced by his brother-in-law, the Crown Prince, and by Prince Albert of Prussia.

Then followed an interesting sojourn in Vienna, where the Royal party were splendidly entertained by the Emperor and Empress of Austria, a suite of apartments in the Burg having been specially prepared for them.

These Continental visits, however, were all preliminary to a prolonged tour in Egypt and the Mediterranean, which must be described in a separate chapter.

CHAPTER VIII.

THEIR MAJESTIES' TOUR IN EGYPT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

OF this tour, Queen Alexandra's Bedchamber woman, the Hon. Mrs. Grey, wrote a charming record, which her brother-in-law, General Grey, persuaded her to give to the world. It should be mentioned that Mrs. Grey was a Swedish lady, the daughter of Count Stedingk. Her first husband, the Hon. William George Grey, eighth son of the famous Earl Grey who was Prime Minister in the reign of William IV., had been dead some years before this tour began. She afterwards married *en secondes nocés* the Duke of Otranto, but it will be more convenient to speak of her here as Mrs. Grey.

Mrs. Grey begins by giving an outline of her plans for the summer of 1868, and then goes on :—

These plans were, however, all upset by a letter from the Princess, in which she told me that she wished me to accompany her on the tour she projected with the Prince of Wales to

the East, and to join her at Copenhagen in the beginning of January; and that in the meantime I might remain quietly—which she knew would be a pleasure to me—with my father and mother in Sweden. This was too tempting an offer not to be eagerly embraced.

Mrs. Grey went to Copenhagen, and there writes in her journal at the beginning of 1869 the following sketch of the tour :—

January 12.—Soon after breakfast I went to see my dear Princess, and to hear something of the proposed plans. I found her, as usual, most kind and affectionate, but very sorry that the few weeks she had been able to spend with her father and mother had come to an end. Her visit seemed to have been a great happiness to her. It is now arranged that we shall set out for our long journey on the 15th, and that while I accompany Her Royal Highness as her lady-in-waiting, Lady Carmarthen and Colonel Keppel, who accompanied the Prince and Princess from England in November, shall part from us at Hamburg, and, with Sir W. Knollys, take the Royal children home. The plan is for us to pass by Berlin and Vienna, and embark on board the *Ariadne* frigate, fitted as a yacht, at Trieste; sail from thence to Alexandria; and, after going up the Nile as far as the Second Cataract, to visit Constantinople, the Crimea, and Greece, before returning home somewhere about the beginning of May. Such is the plan made out for us, but it is, of course, open to many changes, as the political state of things between Greece and Turkey at the present moment may, after all, very possibly upset the latter part of the journey; and in that case we shall return home through Italy.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra were joined at Trieste by Prince Louis of Battenberg, the Duke of Sutherland, Dr. (afterwards Sir) W. H. Russell, and other friends, together with their suite. There

the Royal party embarked on board H.M.S. *Ariadne*, which had been specially fitted up for their reception.

The travellers reached Alexandria on February 3, 1869, and were met by the usual loyal greetings, addresses, and bouquets presented by the British residents. The party then went on to Cairo, where they were received by the Viceroy of Egypt and his ministers. Here the King and Queen were assigned a palace, which Mrs. Grey thus describes :—

The Palace of Esbekieh is beautiful, full of French luxury, but without the real comfort of an English house. The Prince and Princess have an immense bedroom, full of rich French furniture. The beds are very beautiful, made of massive silver, and cost, I believe, £3,000 each! My room is so large that even when the candles are lit, there might be somebody sitting at the other end of it without your knowing it. You could not even hear people speaking from one end to the other! It is as high as it is long, with nine large windows. There is a beautiful silver bed, a large divan (rather high and hard for comfort) round half of the room, a common writing-table and washhand-stand (put in all the rooms at the request of Sir S. Baker), a large sofa, and quantities of very smart chairs round the walls. The curtains and covers of the furniture are all made of the richest silk. Add to all this one immense looking-glass, and you have the whole furniture of my room, which is more like a State drawing-room at Windsor than a bedroom. All the other rooms are furnished in the same way.

Queen Alexandra and Mrs. Grey had an absolutely novel experience on February 5—namely, an invita-

tion to dinner at the Harem of "La Grande Princesse," the Viceroy's mother. The description reads like a page out of the "Arabian Nights," a bewildering vision of magnificent gold plate, jewels both cut and uncut, slaves, and dancing-girls.

There can be no doubt of the impression which the Queen's graciousness and charm created. Mrs. Grey says :—

They were all perfectly enchanted with the Princess, and about every ten or fifteen minutes *une phrase de cérémonie* was exchanged through the Prince [that is, the young Egyptian Prince who acted as interpreter]. "La Grande Princesse est si contente de vous voir," or "La Grande Princesse regrette tant que cela soit contre l'usage du pays, de vous rendre cette visite ;" and so on. . . . At last they all expressed a hope that the Princess would come and dine again on her return to Cairo.

Before starting on their journey up the Nile, the King and Queen took the opportunity of witnessing the curious and interesting procession of the Holy Carpet starting from Cairo on its way to Mecca, which, strangely enough, few of the Europeans who at that time visited Cairo cared to see. Every year two carpets are sent, one of which goes to Medina to serve as a covering for the tomb of the Prophet, and the other to Mecca to be a covering for Kaabah, or the central point of the Mohammedan religion. The King and Queen also witnessed the departure of the pilgrims for Mecca.

On February 6 the voyage up the Nile began. A large steamer, the *Federabanee*, headed the squadron, and was occupied by Prince Louis of Battenberg (then a midshipman on board the *Ariadne*), Major Teesdale, Captain Ellis (equerries in waiting), Lord Carrington, Mr. O. Montagu, Dr. Minter, Sir Samuel Baker, and Mr. Brierley.

The *Federabanee* towed a beautiful dahabeah, or Nile boat, which was named the *Alexandra*, and in which the King and Queen and Mrs. Grey lived. Mrs. Grey mentions that King Edward and Queen Alexandra had "a very nice sleeping cabin, with a bathroom and dressing-room apiece." The *Alexandra* also contained a large sitting-room with a piano, and outside there was a place for sitting and reading, as well as the upper deck.

After the dahabeah came a kitchen steamer, carrying four French cooks and one Arab cook, and towing a barge full of provisions and live stock, such as turkeys, sheep, and chickens. Following this came another steamer, having on board Colonel Stanton, British Consul-General at Cairo, with two Egyptian gentlemen, Mourad Pasha and Abd El Kader Bey, and towing a barge containing horses, donkeys, and a French washerwoman. The whole flotilla was completed by a steamer belonging to

the Duke of Sutherland, who brought with him a distinguished party.

King Edward looked forward to having plenty of sport during the voyage. Accordingly, he had taken a large variety of guns of almost every calibre in use, as well as a wherry to be used for approaching land game. For the purpose of capturing crocodiles nets were brought, which had been specially made under the superintendence of Sir Samuel Baker. The King also arranged for the inclusion in his party of a clever naturalist and taxidermist. Unfortunately, bad weather soon set in, and the *Alexandra* was frequently enveloped in clouds of dust and sand. Notwithstanding this, however, King Edward had fairly good sport, and bagged some very large birds, though the crocodiles were, on the whole, conspicuous by their absence.

During the voyage Queen Alexandra had one very serious adventure. One night the King, who was on board the steamer, observed a light reflected on the side of the *Alexandra*. He at once gave an alarm; the Queen and Mrs. Grey, who were in the dahabeah, were hurried off to the shore; and the fire, which had been caused by a lighted candle in Prince Louis of Battenberg's cabin, was put out by the King and his suite. Had not the quick eyes of

the King discovered the danger, a terrible disaster might have happened, for the boats were wooden and scorched by an Egyptian sun, while there were, of course, a considerable number of cartridges on board.

The Royal tourists frequently landed to visit the temples and the other splendid ruins of ancient Egyptian civilisation, and on one occasion the King caught a bat in the large tomb of Rameses IV. The party started to see the Temple of Karnak by moonlight on the evening of the 18th. The King rode a milk-white ass, caparisoned in crimson velvet and gold, while the Queen was mounted on a grey mule. When they approached the temple an electric globe was lit between each enormous column, and in the background there was a display of rockets and fireworks, forming stars of different colours. This had been arranged by King Edward as a surprise for the Queen, though Mrs. Grey confesses that the secret had been accidentally revealed. However, she describes the whole scene as one of surprising beauty.

The 20th was rendered memorable by a mishap : all the steamers stuck fast in the mud, with the result that everybody had to turn out, and all the luggage had to be removed in order to lighten the boats. The King and Queen and Mrs. Grey were

entertained on board the Duke of Sutherland's steamer at dinner, and by the next day the difficulty of the sand-banks had been surmounted, thanks to the smaller steamer which the Viceroy's foresight had provided.

On the 21st the party arrived at Assouan. Here they found a large number of camels ready to carry the baggage across from the First Cataract to Philæ, whither the party rode to see the boats in which they were to go on to the Second Cataract. On the 22nd, King Edward started first, in order to pay a visit to Lady Duff Gordon, who was living in her dahabeah a little above Assouan; while Queen Alexandra, the Duke of Sutherland, and Mrs. Grey followed in a boat to the foot of the First Cataract, where they were to meet His Majesty.

The Duke of Sutherland and his party left on the 23rd, while the Royal party continued their voyage in two new dahabeahs tied together, and towed by a small steamer. The accommodation was not nearly so good as it had been below Philæ. The Queen and Mrs. Grey landed frequently, and the latter notes that her Royal mistress found great pleasure in distributing the *baksheesh* for which the natives were continually asking, especially the little children.

Meanwhile, the King was very anxious for crocodile ; but he had very poor luck, though he had better sport with fishing. It was not, indeed, until the 28th that he had a fair shot at a crocodile, which he killed at fifty yards with his first barrel. The shyness of these beasts is so great that they are among the most difficult game to stalk in the world. This specimen was nine feet long and four feet round the body. Inside the creature was found a quantity of pebbles, two bottles full of which were brought away as mementos.

The King and Queen throughout the voyage took the greatest interest in the antiquities along the route, visiting all that were accessible. Mrs. Grey mentions how much Queen Alexandra enjoyed the extreme peacefulness of the life led by the party—for there was no post nor any papers ; and after the first inconvenience had worn off, the feeling that no means existed of either sending or receiving letters soon became very delightful.

There were the usual groundings on sandbanks, but nothing else of interest occurred, and the party returned to their old dahabeah on March 8, having thoroughly enjoyed their expedition to the Second Cataract.

The return voyage down the Nile began on the

following day, and immediately the big steamer stuck fast on the old sandbank which gave so much trouble on the way up, although the Viceroy had had six hundred people working away in the interval to deepen the channel.

On March 10, the anniversary of King Edward and Queen Alexandra's wedding-day, some members of the Duke of Sutherland's party, which had broken up, met the Royal party at Thebes—namely, Colonel Stanton, Sir Henry Pelly, Major Alison, and Abd El Kader Bey. Colonel Stanton entertained the party, and Mourad Pasha proposed the health of the Royal pair. After dinner the party went to the house of Mustapha Aga, the English Consul, where they saw some famous Egyptian dancing-girls, including the Taglioni of the country, and some remarkable mummy cases, which had been excavated on purpose for the King.

This was the last day's picnic on the Nile, and the party were due at Minieh in two days, going thence by rail to Cairo.

On March 16 the party went by train from Minieh to Ghizeh, where they were met by the Viceroy's eldest son and a number of officials. After some conversation the King and Queen took their leave, and the Royal party, entering some carriages,

drove to the Pyramids. At the foot of the big Pyramid they found a small pavilion, which had been built on purpose for the Royal visit. Their Majesties, in spite of the slippery, difficult, and suffocating ascent, visited the king's and queen's chambers, and King Edward actually went up to the top of the Pyramid.

During the voyage down the Nile, the King received letters to say that as the differences between Turkey and Greece had been happily settled, their Majesties were free to pay their proposed visit to Constantinople and Athens.

The King and Queen spent a week in Cairo, and saw all the sights of that wonderful city, which were then, it must be remembered, much more novel than they are nowadays, when Egypt has become a regular winter resort.

The Royal party had intended to leave Cairo on March 21, but the King was persuaded by the Viceroy to remain over the Feast of Bairam, which corresponds with the Christian Easter.

On the 23rd the Queen went to the Viceroy's palace across the river to dine with His Highness's four wives. Shortly before leaving she expressed a wish to see how the Egyptian ladies' outdoor veils were fastened on. Some were accordingly

sent for, and Queen Alexandra was dressed up in a veil, much to her amusement. Her eyebrows, and those of Mrs. Grey, were painted, and the thin veil and the burnous were put over them. These Her Majesty and her lady-in-waiting were entreated to keep as a souvenir of their visit. They were still wearing their Egyptian dresses when they returned to their palace; but, to their great disappointment, found everybody gone to bed except their courier, whom they succeeded in surprising, though he frankly said that he thought the ladies were looking far better than usual.

The following day the Royal party arrived at Suez, and were joined by Dr. Russell and Major Alison, and were met by the great Lesseps.

Then came one of the most interesting episodes of the tour—namely, their visit to the Suez Canal, where their Majesties were received and escorted by Lesseps. The works of the Canal Company were by no means completed, but they were being actively carried forward, a large dock, 450 feet long, having been already finished. At Tussum, King Edward performed the important ceremony of opening the sluices of the dam across the finished portion of the canal, thus letting the waters of the Mediterranean into the empty basin of the Bitter Lakes.

The Royal party then drove about three miles beyond the town through the desert to the Viceroy's *châlet*, a pretty little place built on high ground overlooking Lake Timsah. The King and Queen were lodged here, the rest of the party having to rough it in outhouses and tents.

The next day the Royal party went up the Canal towards the Mediterranean; and after driving through Port Said, they embarked on board the Viceroy's yacht *Mahroussa* for passage to Alexandria. M. de Lesseps and his party also came on board the yacht, and the following morning the King and Queen arrived at Alexandria, where the Royal party visited the various sights, including Cleopatra's Needle and Pompey's Pillar.

The *Ariadne* anchored on April 1 some three miles from Constantinople, and there the Royal party were transferred to the Sultan's yacht *Pertif Piali*, in which they went past the entrance to the Golden Horn, as far as the Saleh-Bazar Palace, which had been assigned as a residence by the Sultan to the King and Queen during their visit. The Sultan himself received the Royal party on landing, and took Queen Alexandra up to her rooms, every one following.

Now that the Turkey of that day has gone for ever,

it is curious to read Mrs. Grey's description of the rooms in the Saleh-Bazar. Every European luxury had been provided, and the lattice work, which is always put up across the windows in Turkish houses in order to screen the fair inmates from the rude gaze of outsiders, had been removed and replaced with magnificent silk hangings. All the servants appointed to wait on the King and Queen were Greek and European, except the coachmen, who were French. The meals at the Palace were all served on gold and silver plate studded with gems ; a band of eighty-four musicians played during dinner ; every morning arrived gorgeous presents from the Sultan, including exquisite flowers and trays laden with fruits and sweets ; while, at a clap of the hand, black-coated chibouquejees brought in pipes with amber mouthpieces of fabulous value, encrusted in diamonds and rubies. There was a complete Turkish bath establishment in the Palace, and the slightest wish expressed by the Royal guests was considered an order.

On April 4 the Royal party dined with the Sultan at the Palace of Dolma-Baghtche. It was remarkable for being the first time that the Sultan had ever sat down to dinner with ladies ; and, indeed, it was the first time that any of his own ministers,

except the Grand Vizier, had ever been known to sit down in his presence. Half the party were Turks, and they looked so frightened and astonished that they acted as wet blankets to the rest of the company, which included Mr. Elliot, the British ambassador, and Mrs. Elliot ; and General Ignatieff, the Russian ambassador, and his wife.

The King and Queen, who adopted for the nonce the name of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, spent the whole morning of April 5 in the bazaars, attended by Mrs. Grey, and entirely escaped being recognised. Another Oriental precedent was broken on the 7th, when the Royal party went to the opera, and the Sultan joined the King and Queen and Mrs. Grey in the Royal box. This was the first time that the Sultan had been seen with ladies in his box.

It would be tedious to describe in detail the ceremonies and visits to places of interest which the Royal party paid. In this way the days were filled up until the 10th, when it was decided that Queen Alexandra should accompany King Edward in his proposed visit to the Crimea.

After lunching with the Sultan the Royal party again went on board the *Ariadne* with the usual ceremonies, and started for the Crimea, arriving in the harbour of Sevastopol on April 12. The

great struggle with Russia was still fresh in every one's memories, and they found not a single ship in the harbour, and all the forts and fortifications abandoned—indeed, the whole town on one side almost one mass of ruins. The *débris* remained just as they were left in 1856, and the populace, which before the war amounted to 60,000, had been reduced to 5,500; but the Russian authorities offered every possible assistance to the King and Queen in order that they might see everything that could be seen.

On that first day of their arrival they visited the Russian cemetery, and then drove to the battlefield of the Alma, where Mrs. Grey records the shaking which the Queen and she experienced in driving over the rough ground still full of great holes made by the shells used in the battle. They saw the broken-down bridge over the Alma, just as it was left after the battle; in fact, the King and Queen examined the battlefield most thoroughly, studying the various positions occupied by the forces on both sides.

The Russian authorities entertained the party at luncheon in a Tartar farmhouse, which had been used during the war as a field-hospital. Dr. Russell, Major Alison, and Captain Ellis, who had all been

there during the war, were perpetually pointing out fresh places of interest ; and in the evening the Russian officials were entertained at dinner on board the *Ariadne*. Nothing could exceed the tact and courtesy of the Russians, who affected to regard the war as if it had been some long distant historical campaign, and had no hesitation even in pointing out to their visitors the different places where the Russian forces had been beaten.

It is needless to mention the names of all the places visited by the Royal party. Wherever they went the beautiful old Russian custom of offering bread and salt was never omitted, the inhabitants of the villages always rushing out and presenting these signs of hospitality to Queen Alexandra.

On the 14th the Royal party visited the field of Balaklava. That night the party slept at Livadia, and, after visiting some villas in the neighbourhood, they all embarked in the *Ariadne*, and bade farewell to their Russian friends with much regret. *Via* Brindisi the King and Queen returned to London overland, stopping a little while in Paris, where they were treated with the most marked attention by the Emperor and Empress of the French.

As may be easily imagined, King Edward was very popular all over France, and he had many

curious and interesting adventures when going out in the semi-*incognito* which he affected when traveling for pleasure. On one occasion, shortly after the end of the war, he visited the battlefield of Sedan, attended by General Teesdale. He was naturally anxious that his identity should not become known, for French susceptibilities were very keen at that time, and he had no desire to appear to glory in his brother-in-law's victories. When the time came to pay the hotel bill, General Teesdale found with great dismay that he had no ready cash ; the King was in an equally penniless condition ; while any telegram sent would have disclosed the identity of the Royal visitor. At length, after much discussion, the equerry made his way to the local *Mont de Piété*, and placed both his own and King Edward's repeater in pawn.

Among the formal acts of ceremony which King Edward performed during this year was the unveiling of a statue of the late Mr. George Peabody. In the speech which he delivered on this occasion he alluded in the warmest terms to his feeling of personal friendship towards the United States, and his enduring recollection of the reception which had been accorded to him there.

CHAPTER IX.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

EXACTLY ten years after the first dread news of the Prince Consort's fatal illness had gone forth, it became known that the Heir-Apparent was lying seriously ill at Sandringham. Not very long before, Princess Alice, who was then staying at Sandringham, wrote the following note to Queen Victoria :—

It is the first time since eleven years that I have spent Bertie's birthday with him, and though we have only three of our own family together, still that is better than nothing, and makes it seem more like a birthday. Bertie and Alix are so kind, and give us so warm a welcome, showing how they like having us, that it feels quite home. Indeed, I pray earnestly that God's blessing may rest on him, and that he may be guided to do what is wise and right, so that he may tide safely through the anxious times that are before him, and in which we now live.

Princess Alice little knew the days and nights of anxious misery that were coming so swiftly upon her brother's peaceful household, and indeed upon the whole nation. The King sickened in London, but as soon as he felt himself to be seriously at-

tacked he insisted on going home to Norfolk, where the disease was pronounced to be typhoid fever.

The King, his groom Blegge, and Lord Chesterfield, who had all been at Scarborough with Lord Londesborough, were stricken simultaneously, and public attention was soon wholly concentrated on the three cases. Curiously enough, the groom and the peer both died, though in neither case were any pains or expense spared. Doubtless King Edward's youth and excellent constitution stood him in good stead, but for many days the issue was considered exceedingly doubtful.

The patient was nursed entirely by his wife and his sister, Princess Alice, his medical attendants, being Doctors Jenner, Gull, Clayton, and Lowe. On the last day of November came an official notification :—

The Princess of Wales has borne her great trial in the most admirable manner and with singular equanimity. While fully aware of the gravity of the Prince's serious illness, Her Royal Highness has throughout been calm and collected.

But the patient's state was known to be critical, and soon it was announced that Queen Victoria was going to Sandringham, which she did on November 29.

The anxiety, succeeded by the most heart-breaking suspense, which prevailed in the Royal family is well reflected in the following extracts from the diary of the late Duchess of Teck, who was then at Strelitz :—

November 25.—Read Gussy Alix's letter to Mama about our poor, dear Wales, who was attacked with the fever about the 19th or so, and is under Dr. Gull's charge, who says it must have its twenty-four days' course, and that so far all is going on as well as can be expected.

December 1.— . . . When I finished my packet for the messenger, I telegraphed to darling Alix, and flew up to Mama to consult her about it. . . . From Alix somewhat better news reached us, after a bad telegram at three from dear Alice.

December 2.—A rather better account of Wales.

December 3.—Wales improving. . . .

December 5.— . . . Better accounts from Sandringham, but poor Lord Chesterfield dead.

December 6.— . . . Reassuring message from Alice.

December 8.— . . . Opened a telegram with anxious and distressing news from Sandringham; poor dear Wales has had a relapse; his state evidently very critical. *Gott helfe weiter.* We were much upset, and with a heavy heart I closed my packet for the messenger and wrote till dressing-time, though I had much difficulty in settling down to anything. . . . Mama was very silent all dinner-time, but we never for a moment suspected, what we afterwards learnt had been the case, that she had received a worse telegram at five o'clock, and had in kindness kept it from us. . . . I wrote *chez moi* till a most alarming telegram from Alice to Mama was brought me, with which I hastened to Gussy. . . . We cried over the almost hopeless accounts together, which spoke of the end as not far distant, provided dear Wales did not at once rally, and with despairing hearts we joined the others in the blue drawing-room. Fritz came in presently, and I read him the three telegrams received that day, and a letter from Lady Macclesfield. Later Mama

sent for Gussy and me to wish us a sorrowful good-night. I then went to my room and wrote till nearly four, feeling sleep out of the question.

December 9.—Gussy rushed in with a rather more hopeful telegram: "Night quiet, exhaustion not increased, breathing clearer." God grant he may yet rally and pull through! It was a relief after all we had undergone, and thank God for it; the agony of suspense was hard to bear. . . .

December 10.—On our return from church we found a telegram from Sandringham, which Gussy tremblingly opened. *Es lautele*, "a shade better." Thank God! I ran with it to Tante. . . .

December 11.—About noon, Geraldo rushed in with two telegrams, one sent off last night, the other this morning; both *heartrendingly sad*, and giving next to no hope, but for the words, "Yet we hope." They were a *cruel* check to our faint hopes. We could think and talk of nothing else. . . .

December 12.—Dolphus brought us a very hopeless telegram from Alice: "Night restless, very delirious, no signs of improvement."

December 13.— . . . Gussy and Tante much upset over a very disquieting message from Alice, which said, "Night without rest. No important change in the general state. Breathing is weak. Anxiety increased." One can only look to God's great mercy for further hope!

December 14.— . . . Bulow congratulated me on the better accounts which had just been received from Sandringham. It was the first I had heard of it; just at that moment Wenckstern appeared with the telegram: "Quiet sleep at intervals, gravity of symptoms diminished, state more hopeful.—Alice." God be thanked for this blessed change! . . .

December 15.—A much more hopeful telegram from Alice, as follows: "Bertie has passed a quiet night. The debility is great, but the conditions are much more favourable. Thank God for this great mercy."

The feeling aroused throughout the United Kingdom was far greater than any public expression of emotion since the death of Princess

Charlotte in 1817. In every town crowds waited anxiously for the issue of newspapers containing the latest news of the Royal patient's condition, and the Government found it expedient to forward the medical bulletins to every telegraph office in the United Kingdom. In the churches of every religious communion prayers were offered, though almost without hope, for the recovery of King Edward.

At length, on December 1, King Edward recovered consciousness, and his first remark to those about him was, "This is the Princess's birthday." The next coherent utterance came when he heard that Queen Victoria had been at Sandringham. "Has the Queen come from Scotland? Does she know I am ill?" he asked. But this slight rally did not continue, and soon all the Royal family were summoned to Sandringham. On December 9 the fever had spent itself, but the patient's strength was considered to be exhausted. Special prayers were offered up in all churches; and shortly before the service in St. Mary Magdalene's, Sandringham, the vicar received the following note from Queen Alexandra:—

My husband being, thank God, somewhat better, I am coming to church. I must leave, I fear, before the service is concluded,

that I may watch by his bedside. Can you not say a few words in prayer in the early part of the service, that I may join with you in prayer for my husband before I return to him ?

On the 16th it was recorded that the patient had enjoyed a quiet and refreshing sleep, and on the 17th, a Sunday, those of the Royal family who were then at Sandringham were present at church, when, by special request, the Prince and Blegge were recommended to the mercy of God in the same prayer. That same day, Queen Alexandra visited the poor dying groom, and after his death, which occurred within the next few hours, both she and Queen Victoria found time, in the midst of their terrible anxiety, to visit and comfort his relations.

By Christmas Day the danger may be said to have been over, and Queen Alexandra and Princess Alice felt that their patient was well enough for them to leave him for an hour or two in order to assist at the distribution of Christmas gifts to the labourers on the estate.

A memento of King Edward's terrible illness is the brass lectern in the parish church. On it runs an inscription :—

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

A THANKOFFERING FOR HIS MERCY.

14TH DECEMBER 1871.

ALEXANDRA.

“When I was in trouble I called upon the Lord, and He
heard me.”

It was rumoured at the time that King Edward, under Providence, really owed his recovery to one of those sudden inspirations of genius of which the history of medicine is full. He seemed to be actually *in extremis*, when one of his medical attendants sent in haste for two bottles of old champagne brandy, and rubbed the patient with it vigorously till returning animation rewarded the doctor's efforts.

King Edward's recovery was hailed with feelings of deep thankfulness by the whole nation, and it was universally deemed appropriate that public thanks should be returned to Almighty God for His great mercy.

The day fixed for the public national thanksgiving in St. Paul's was February 27, and never, save perhaps on June 22, 1897, did Queen Victoria and her eldest son and daughter-in-law receive a more splendid and heartfelt welcome. Thirteen

thousand people were admitted to the cathedral, among them being most of the notable personages of the day, including all the great officers of State.

The service began with the "Te Deum," and after some prayers a special form of thanksgiving was said. Then the Archbishop of Canterbury preached a short sermon from the text—Romans xii. 5—"Members one of another." The service concluded with a thanksgiving hymn, which had been specially written for the occasion. The Royal procession returned by a different route, along Holborn and Oxford Street, in the presence of an enthusiastic crowd, said to be the largest ever collected in London. As the poet sings :—

Bear witness, thou memorable day,
When, pale as yet, and fever-worn, the Prince,
Who scarce had plucked his flickering life again
From halfway down the shadow of the grave,
Past through the people and their love,
And London rolled one tide of joy through all
Her trebled millions and loud leagues of men.

The impression made by King Edward's illness and marvellous recovery upon the Royal family in general is well illustrated by the following passage from a letter written by Princess Alice to her mother in December 1872 :—

That our good, sweet Alix should have been spared this terrible grief, when this time last year it seemed so imminent, fills my heart with gratitude for her dear sake, as for yours, his children and ours. . . . The 14th will now be a day of mixed recollections and feelings to us, a day hallowed in our family, when one great spirit ended his work on earth . . . and when another was left to fulfil his duty and mission, God grant, for the welfare of his own family and of thousands.

CHAPTER X.

1873-1875.

THE year 1873 was spent, on the whole, very quietly by King Edward and Queen Alexandra. His Majesty took up once more the thread of his public life, which had been interrupted for a considerable time by his illness and convalescence.

A pleasant glimpse of the home life of Sandringham about this time is given in the following letter from the witty and eloquent Archbishop Magee (then Bishop of Peterborough), written to his wife :—

SANDRINGHAM, *December 7, 1873.*

Just returned from church where I preached for twenty-six minutes (Romans viii. 28). The church is a very small country one close to the grounds. The house, as I saw it by daylight, is a handsome country-house of red stone with white facings, standing well and looking quietly comfortable and suitable. I find the company pleasant and civil, but we are a curious mixture. Two Jews, Sir A. Rothschild and his daughter; an ex-Jew, Disraeli; a Roman Catholic, Colonel Higgins; an Italian duchess who is an Englishwoman, and her daughter brought up as a Roman Catholic and now turning Protestant; a set of young lords, and a bishop. The Jewess came to church; so did the half-Protestant young lady. Dizzy did the same, and was profuse

in his praises of my sermon. We are all to lunch together in a few minutes, the children dining with us. They seem, the two I saw in church, nice, clever-looking little bodies, and very like their mother.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra represented Queen Victoria at the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia in January 1874. The English marriage service was performed by Dean Stanley, who wrote to Queen Victoria an interesting letter describing the Imperial wedding, in which he mentioned how much he had been struck, both in the chapel and at the subsequent banquet, by the singular difference in character and expression of the four future kings—the Prince of Wales, the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Tsarevitch, and the Crown Prince of Denmark, who were all present.

King Edward dined in the Middle Temple Hall on Grand Night of Trinity term in 1874. On this occasion His Majesty humorously expressed the opinion that it was a good thing for the profession at large and for the public in general that he had never practised at the Bar, for he could never have been an ornament to it. In saying this his modesty led him astray, for he was a thoughtful and lucid speaker, and his habits of method and order would

certainly have stood him in good stead if he had been compelled to apply his mind to any profession. His Majesty was elected a Bencher of the Middle Temple in 1861, and served the office of Treasurer in the Jubilee year of 1887.

That same year the King and Queen visited Birmingham for the first time, being received by the then mayor, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who was at the time credited with being so advanced a republican that many fears were expressed that he might behave with scant courtesy to his Royal guests, and bets were even taken as to whether he would consent to shake hands with them. However, these prognostications proved groundless.

CHAPTER XI.

THE KING'S TOUR IN INDIA.

LORD CANNING, the great Viceroy of India, once told the Prince Consort how desirable he thought it that the Prince of Wales should, when grown up, visit Queen Victoria's Eastern Empire, and, later on, those who had the privilege of the young Prince's friendship were well aware that an Indian tour had become one of his most ardent wishes.

But the project of the Heir-Apparent's visit to India only really took shape early in 1875, and on March 20 it was publicly announced that the Prince contemplated this journey, Lord Salisbury, who was then Secretary of State for India, making the official announcement to the Council of India of the intended event. The Council passed a resolution that the expenditure actually incurred in India should be charged on the revenues of that country.

Curiously enough, a great deal of hostile feeling was aroused by the announcement of this Royal tour. On July 17 a meeting was held in Hyde Park to protest against the grant of money which was then being sanctioned by Parliament to defray the expenses of the journey. Many people went so far as to declare that they would have acquiesced in the passing of the vote had the Heir-Apparent's visit to his mother's Eastern dominions been a "State visit" instead of a mere "pleasure trip." And yet it need hardly be pointed out that, greatly as King Edward looked forward to his tour, the journey was likely to prove anything but a mere "pleasure trip" to India's Royal visitor. He and those about him well knew that from the moment he landed at Bombay till the day he left India he would not only constantly remain in the public eye, but be also expected to conciliate the many different races with which he was to be brought in contact when passing through the various Indian States.

There were many points to be considered about the tour. The rules and regulations which had sufficed for the Prince in Canada and the Colonies were inapplicable to India. One notable feature of Oriental manners is the exchange of presents

between visitors and hosts, and it was arranged that King Edward's luggage should contain £40,000 worth of presents, to be distributed among the great feudatory and other potentates who would have the honour of entertaining or at any rate of meeting him.

It was also arranged that he was to be the guest of the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, from the moment he landed on Indian soil; and, roughly speaking, it was estimated that the expenses of the reception would probably come to about £30,000. The estimate made by the Admiralty for the expenses of the voyage to and from India, and the movements of the fleet in connection with the Royal visit, came to £52,000; while for the personal expenses of the visit a vote of £60,000 was included in the estimate submitted to the House of Commons when in Committee of Supply. However, here again this suggestion did not meet with universal approval when the necessary resolution was brought forward in the House. Mr. Fawcett, afterwards Postmaster-General, raised a discussion, basing his objections to the vote partly on sentimental and partly on economic grounds. However, he only found thirty-three members to agree with him, and the vote was passed. During the debate, Mr.

Disraeli, who was then Prime Minister, drew a very remarkable picture of the extraordinary pomp and circumstance with which the future King was about to be surrounded.

It was felt better that he should go as Heir-Apparent of the Crown, and not as the representative of Her Majesty ; but, as might have been expected, so fine a distinction was not understood in India, and he was expected to do just as much as he would have done in a more directly official capacity.

Before starting on his tour he thoroughly studied the subject of India and her peoples, and he even made himself acquainted with the peculiarities of every one of the large Indian cities where he would be expected to receive and answer addresses.

It was decided that Sir Bartle Frere, whose name was familiar to millions of the inhabitants of India, should be in attendance, and the Duke of Sutherland was also asked to join the party. Of the King's private friends, Lord Aylesford, Lord Carrington, Colonel Owen Williams, and Lieutenant Lord Charles Beresford also accepted an invitation to be of the party. Then came the official household, consisting of Lord Suffield ; Colonel Ellis, the Prince's equerry, to whom was confided the delicate question of the giving and receiving of presents ;

General Dighton Probyn, to whom were left the arrangements for horses, travelling, and shooting parties; and Mr. Francis Knollys, the Prince's private secretary. Canon Duckworth went as chaplain, and Dr. Joseph Fayrer as medical man. Mr. Albert Grey (afterwards Earl Grey) went as private secretary to Sir Bartle Frere; Mr. S. P. Hall accompanied the party in order to sketch the incidents of the tour; while Lord Alfred Paget was specially commissioned by Queen Victoria to join the suite. Dr. W. H. Russell, the famous war correspondent, was temporarily attached to the suite as honorary private secretary.

King Edward started from London on October 11, immense popular interest being taken in the event. Queen Alexandra accompanied her husband as far as Calais, and then King Edward travelled across the Continent *incognito*, meeting his suite, who had started a few days previously, at Brindisi.

The eventful journey was made in the *Serapis*, one of the old large Indian troopships, and the voyage was very successful from every point of view.

As the *Serapis* steamed onwards the various programmes of the Royal progress through India were

submitted to King Edward, and even the addresses which were to be presented to him were shown, and his answers were carefully prepared; in fact, before he left Aden, His Majesty knew with what words the Corporation of Bombay, for instance, would receive him.

All India was by now in a ferment of excitement, and the official world were very much concerned at the immense responsibility placed upon them by the mother country. Four officers, of whom two had obtained the Victoria Cross, were selected and commissioned to look after the comfort and the safety of King Edward and of his suite: Major Bradford (afterwards Sir E. R. C. Bradford, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police) being entrusted with the safety of the Royal visitor's own person.

The question as to how King Edward was to make his first appearance in Bombay was keenly discussed, and at one time it was thought that splendidly-caparisoned elephants would form the most fitting mode of transport from the landing-stage to Government House, but finally the party went in carriages. Among the cargo of the *Serapis* were three valuable horses, specially chosen from the Marlborough House stables, which had been regularly taken to the Zoo, in order to be accus-

tomed to the sight of the wild beasts and reptiles which they were likely to meet with in India.

When at last the *Serapis* was sighted, the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook (afterwards Earl of Northbrook) went out to meet King Edward, returning to Bombay in order to receive him on landing. There was a good deal of discreet curiosity as to which of them would give precedence to the other, for of course the Viceroy represented Queen Victoria, and so was entitled to take precedence; but Lord Northbrook, with considerable tact, unobtrusively gave his Royal guest the first place.

The moment King Edward emerged from the dockyard a salute was fired, and at every station in India, whether important or obscure, the signal was given by telegraph for a Royal salute wherever there were guns to fire it.

While actually in Bombay, King Edward and his suite became the guests of the Governor, Sir Philip Woodhouse, and it was there that, two days after his arrival in India, the King celebrated his thirty-fourth birthday. On this day the glories and the fatigues of King Edward's Indian tour may be said to have begun.

The Royal birthday was duly honoured all over Hindustan at noon, and although the heat, even

at 8 A.M., had been very considerable, the King was compelled to hold a great reception in full dress—that is to say, a uniform of English cloth loaded with lace and buttoned up to the throat. The scene was very impressive. King Edward during the reception was seated on a silver throne, and everything was done to invest the affair with the greatest pomp and circumstance.

An immense number of native Princes and Rajahs paid their respects in person to their future sovereign. The first potentate to be presented was the Rajah of Kholapur, a child of twelve years old, the ruler of nearly a million people. The little Rajah was attired in purple velvet and white muslin encrusted with gems, his turban containing a King's ransom of pearls and rubies. The child Prince remained perfectly serious, and went through the somewhat complicated ceremonies with absolute self-possession.

The next few days were also equally well filled. King Edward had to pay elaborate return visits to the chiefs and rajahs who had attended his reception, and it was then that he was enabled to show his tact and the extraordinary knowledge he had acquired of their complicated ranks and genealogies ; indeed, he greatly pleased several important Rajahs

by showing that he had heard of the antiquity of their families, and by graciously alluding to the gallant deeds of their ancestors. The British people of Bombay had organised a great dinner for the sailors of the fleet, and, much to their gratification, the King consented to attend the banquet. Not content with a mere formal glance at the proceedings, he mounted a plank, and with a glass in his hand, exclaimed to the delighted men, of whom there were over two thousand present, "My lads, I am glad to meet you all. I drink your good health, and a happy voyage home."

King Edward took the opportunity of laying the foundation-stone of the Elphinstone Docks, the ceremony being carried out with Masonic honours, and it was considered very interesting and significant that among members of the craft present were Parsees, Mohammedans, and Hindus.

During the month of November, King Edward visited Poona, where he held a review, and visited the Court of the Gaikwar of Baroda. There a fine elephant was prepared for his use. The animal was of extraordinary size, and the howdah on which King Edward rode was said to have cost four lakhs of rupees. He held a reception at the Residency, and had his first sight of Indian sport—for he at-

tended a cheetah hunt, himself killing a fine buck, and much enjoying his day's sport. About the same time he also joined a pig-sticking expedition, a very popular Indian sport, and at last, to his great satisfaction, had the opportunity of "getting his spear;" in other words, of killing a wild boar.

Then, returning to Bombay, the Royal party once more took up their quarters on the *Serapis*, where the King spent Queen Alexandra's birthday. From Bombay he found time to visit the Portuguese settlement of Goa, and thence went on to Ceylon, where he inspected a tea plantation. At Madras King Edward had a splendid reception, spending, however, December 14, the anniversary of his father's death, in retirement at Guindy Park, the country-seat of the Governor.

Christmas Day was spent in Calcutta, where an immense programme was gone through, including a considerable number of public ceremonies, the holding of audiences, and last, but not least, a *levée*, at which both natives and Europeans were present. After King Edward and the Viceroy had attended divine service in the Cathedral, His Majesty entertained a large party at lunch in the *Serapis*. His health was drunk with Highland honours, and

many messages were exchanged between himself and "home."

The most important ceremony attended by King Edward in India—namely, a Chapter of the Order of the Star of India, at which he acted as High Commissioner for his Royal mother—was held on New Year's Day, 1876. His Majesty wore a field-marshal's uniform, almost concealed beneath the folds of his sky-blue satin mantle, the train of which was carried by two naval cadets, who wore cocked hats over their powdered wigs, blue satin cloaks, trunk hose, and shoes with rosettes. The Chapter tent was carpeted with cloth of gold with the Royal Arms emblazoned in the centre. An immense number of the Companions of the Order attended, forming a most impressive procession, walking two and two, one half native and the other European. The Begum of Bhopal, the first Knight Grand Commander, had a procession all to herself. She was veiled and swathed in brocades and silks, over which was folded the light blue satin robe of the Order.

King Edward took his seat on the dais, and after the roll of the Order had been read, each member standing up as his name was called, the Chapter was declared open, and His Majesty directed the

investiture to proceed. Never had such a gathering been seen in India. Among those present were Lord Napier of Magdala, " Political " Maitland, the Maharajah of Kashmir, and the Rajah of Patiala, who wore the great Sancy diamond in his turban.

As each investiture took place, seventeen guns were fired, and the secretary proclaimed aloud the titles of the newly-made Knight Grand Commander, or Companion, as the case might be. The pageant was incomparably splendid, the close of the ceremony being quite as fine as the beginning, for the Knights Grand Cross, the Knights Grand Commanders, and the Companions all formed once more in a procession in the reverse order of their entry.

At the close of King Edward's visit to Calcutta he began his journeys by rail. At Benares he visited the famous Temples, and the Golden Pool, going from thence by steamer to the old port of Ram-magar, where he and his suite were splendidly received by the Maharajah, who presented him with some very costly shawls and brocades, together with what is to an Indian the very highest proof of regard, namely his own walking-stick, a thick staff mounted with gold.

At Lucknow, King Edward laid the foundation-stone of a memorial to the natives who fell in the

defence of the Residency. On this occasion he took the opportunity of paying a well-deserved tribute to the faithful soldiers of the native army. Some of the veterans were presented to him, and they were not allowed to be hurried by—ragged, squalid, or unclean, His Majesty insisted on exchanging a few words with several of them.

From Delhi, King Edward proceeded to Cawnpore, a spot he had been extremely anxious to visit, in common with many less illustrious tourists. His Majesty, after a drive to the site of the old cantonments, where the heroic defence took place, made his way to the Memorial Church, where he stopped close to the gateway which no native may pass through. There he alighted, and, with signs of deep emotion, walked to the spot which marks the place of the fatal well. There was deep silence as he read aloud in a low voice the touching words, "To the memory of a great company of Christian people, principally women and children, who were cruelly slaughtered here."

Some interesting hours were spent at Agra, where King Edward went to see the Taj illuminated—the beautiful marble "Queen of Sorrow" erected by the Shah Jehan in memory of his much-loved wife, Moomtaz i mahul, who died at the birth of her

eighth child. The King was so greatly charmed with the beauty of the Taj, lit up by myriad lights, that he would not return to the city till nearly midnight. All through the journeys and expeditions which immediately followed, His Majesty could not forget what he had seen; and before finally leaving the district, he paid one more visit to the famous tomb, seeing it this time not illuminated, but by the beautiful full Indian moonlight.

King Edward shot his first tiger on February 5 in the neighbourhood of Jeypur; but it was by no means the last, for it is recorded that he shot six tigers in one day when hunting in Nepaul with Sir Jung Bahadur. Then he returned through Lucknow, Cawnpore, and Allahabad. At Jubbulpur, His Majesty went through the prison, and had some talk with seven Thugs who had been thirty-five years in confinement, and whose life in the first instance had only been spared because they had turned Queen's evidence. King Edward questioned them as to their hideous trade; and one man, a villainous-looking individual, answered proudly, in reply to the question as to how many people he had murdered, "Sixty-seven."

King Edward and his suite left Bombay for home on March 13, just seventeen weeks after the *Serapis*

had first dropped anchor in Bombay harbour. During those four months he had travelled close on 8,000 miles by land and 2,500 miles by sea, and during that time he had become acquainted with more rajahs than had all the viceroys who had ever reigned over India, and he had seen more of the country than had any living Englishman.

The intelligence that Queen Victoria was about to assume the title of Empress of India had become known before the *Serapis* left Bombay, and caused her son great gratification. Curiously enough, King Edward met Lord Lytton, who was on his way out to Hindustan to succeed Lord Northbrook as Viceroy, when the *Serapis* was going through the Suez Canal.

It need hardly be pointed out that King Edward received a very remarkable number of gifts during his tour in India. The cost of a gift made to him by a native Prince was supposed to be strictly limited to £2,000 in value ; but in many cases this restriction was evaded by the present being priced at a nominal sum, the real value being anything from £5,000 to £30,000. As an actual fact, the splendid collection brought home by His Majesty was said to be worth half a million sterling.

There can be no doubt that from a political point

of view the tour was a great success, doing much indirectly to consolidate the British power in India. It is also a curious commentary on the objections raised by the economic party to the visit that no less a sum than £250,000 was spent in London alone by native Princes in buying presents for His Majesty.

The real popularity of King Edward's visit to India was significantly proved by the popular demonstrations which awaited him on his return. Enthusiastic greetings of welcome hailed him in the evening, both at Victoria Station and in his drive round Grosvenor Place, Piccadilly, and St. James's Street to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The appearance of King Edward and Queen Alexandra at the Royal Italian Opera in the evening, within two hours of their reaching home, was a particularly graceful act of consideration. Nothing could surpass the enthusiasm with which they were greeted when they were seen to be in the Royal box.

During the days that followed, their Majesties received congratulatory visits from all the members of the Royal family then in England, and from many distinguished personages. On the Sunday after his return, King Edward, accompanied by his

Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Connaught, attended divine service at Westminster Abbey in the afternoon, when special thanksgivings were offered up for His Majesty's safe return from India.

CHAPTER XII.

QUIET YEARS OF PUBLIC WORK, 1876-1887—VISIT TO IRELAND—QUEEN VICTORIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

THE year 1876 was marked, in addition to King Edward's return from India, by a curious example of His Majesty's tact and courage. He consented to preside at the special Jubilee Festival of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, and this action aroused an extraordinary amount of feeling in temperance circles. Before the day of the festival he had received more than 200 petitions from all over the kingdom begging him to withdraw his consent. His Majesty, however, attended the festival, and in his speech pointedly referred to his critics, observing that he was there, not to encourage the consumption of alcoholic liquors, but to support an excellent charity which had enjoyed the patronage of his honoured father.

It is interesting to note the manner in which King Edward always referred to his father, with whom he undoubtedly had far more in common than was generally supposed. Perhaps the most conspicuous taste shared by the father and the

son was a really keen and personal interest in exhibitions of all kinds. This was probably first realised by those about him when the King accepted the onerous duties of Executive President of the British Commission of the Paris Exhibition of 1878. He threw himself with ardour into this work almost immediately after his return from India, and during a short visit which he paid to France in that spring he received a considerable number of official personages connected with the approaching Exhibition.

This year of 1878, so brilliant in Paris, brought to the British Royal family a bereavement which can only be compared for its suddenness and bitterness with the death of the Prince Consort. The Grand Duchess of Hesse (Princess Alice), after nursing her children through a malignant diphtheria, herself fell a victim to the same dread disease on the very anniversary of her father's death. The blow fell with peculiar severity on King Edward and Queen Alexandra, with whom Princess Alice had been united in bonds of the closest affection, especially since King Edward's illness, in which she had proved herself so devoted a nurse. The link between the Royal brother and sister is significantly shown by the fact that Princess Alice never visited England without paying long visits at Sandringham

or at Marlborough House. King Edward was one of the chief mourners at the funeral in Darmstadt.

After this blow, King Edward and Queen Alexandra naturally remained for some months in the deepest retirement. A new grief was, however, in store for them—the tragic death in the following June of the young Prince Imperial, in whose career King Edward had always taken a warm and almost paternal interest. His Majesty was among the very first in this country to be informed of the terrible news, and he was of the greatest assistance to the stricken Empress Eugénie in making the complicated arrangements for the funeral. His active sympathy, and the announcement that the Heir to the British Crown intended to be the principal pall-bearer of Napoleon III.'s ill-fated son, aroused much comment on the Continent, and gave great satisfaction to Frenchmen of all shades of political opinion. On a beautiful wreath of violets which was sent from Marlborough House for the funeral at Chislehurst were the words, written in Queen Alexandra's own hand :—

A token of affection and regard for him who lived the most spotless of lives and died a soldier's death fighting for our cause in Zululand.

From ALBERT EDWARD and ALEXANDRA,

July 12, 1879.

King Edward strongly supported the movement for erecting a memorial to the Prince Imperial in Westminster Abbey, and subscribed £130 to the fund which was raised for that object. The opposition to the scheme was, however, so strong that it fell to the ground. That the King's feelings were not modified in any way was shown by the fact that early in January 1883, His Majesty, accompanied by his two sons, with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge, unveiled a monument to the Prince Imperial at Woolwich. This "United Service Memorial" was erected by a subscription raised throughout all ranks of the Army, Navy, Royal Marines, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, and Count Gleichen was the sculptor. King Edward, in a speech at the unveiling, commended the virtues, the blameless life, the courage, and obedience to orders manifested by the young Prince as a bright example to the young men entering the Military Academy, and remarked that it was only a natural impulse which prompted his desire to join his English comrades in the war in South Africa, in which he fell fighting for the Queen of England.

It was in 1881 that King Edward had an opportunity of exhibiting in a public manner his strong interest in the British Colonies, the welfare of which

was not then so much a matter of concern in the eyes of our statesmen as it became later. The occasion was a dinner given to the members of the Colonial Institute by the then Lord Mayor, Sir George MacArthur, himself an old colonist. An extraordinary number of distinguished men connected in various ways, official and other, with our Colonies were present. In his speech, King Edward pointed out that no function of the kind had ever taken place before—a statement which seems hardly credible nowadays, thanks in a great measure to His Majesty's own unwearied exertions in the interests of our Colonial Empire. The King also alluded to his Canadian tour, and took the opportunity of paying a graceful compliment to his friend Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian statesman, who was present.

Generally speaking, this period of King Edward's life was not very eventful. His children were still quite young, and his public appearances, though tolerably frequent, did not usually possess more than a local importance. There were, however, some conspicuous exceptions, which broke the even current of his life. For example, it would be difficult to overestimate the value of the work which His Majesty did in promoting the International

Fisheries Exhibition in 1883, which was visited by nearly three million people, and may be said to have been the first introduction into the United Kingdom of open-air entertainment on a large scale. Moreover, it resulted in a clear profit of £15,000, of which two-thirds were devoted to the relief of the orphan families of fishermen. The success of the Fisheries suggested to King Edward the idea of another exhibition concerned with health and hygiene, which was held in 1884, and was nicknamed the "Healtheries."

Not long before it was opened, King Edward and Queen Alexandra suffered a great bereavement in the death of the Duke of Albany, to whom their Majesties had always been very much attached. He died quite suddenly in the south of France on March 28, and King Edward instantly started for the Riviera and brought his brother's remains back to Windsor.

In August of this year was celebrated the jubilee of the abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions. King Edward attended a meeting at the Mansion House and delivered a long and elaborate speech, evidently the result of much painstaking study, in which he reviewed the whole history of the anti-slavery movement.

The news of the fall of Khartoum came as a terrible shock to King Edward, who had long watched with increasing interest the career of General Gordon. Indeed, General Gordon had always been one of His Majesty's great heroes, and it was chiefly owing to His Majesty's initiative that a fund was established for providing a national memorial to the hero of Khartoum. At the first meeting of the committee, King Edward made a touching speech, in which he said of Gordon :—

His career as a soldier, as a philanthropist, and as a Christian is a matter of history. . . . Many would wish for some fine statue, some fine monument, but we who know what Gordon was feel convinced that were he living nothing would be more distasteful personally than that any memorial should be erected in the shape of a statue or of any great monument. His tastes were so simple, and we all know he was anxious that his name should not be brought prominently before the public, though in every act of his life that name was brought, I am inclined to think, as prominently before the nation as that of any soldier or any great Englishman whom we know of at the present time.

It had been decided, not without the most anxious consideration, that King Edward and Queen Alexandra, accompanied by their elder son, should pay a visit to Ireland. The announcement was received with the greatest excitement both in Ireland and in America.

United Ireland, the chief organ of the Nationalist party, then edited by Mr. William O'Brien, and said

to be largely written by Mr. T. M. Healy, brought out a special number devoted entirely to expressions of opinion from eminent Irishmen of all kinds on the Royal visit. Every Nationalist Member of Parliament, every prominent ecclesiastic—in a word, every Irishman of conspicuous Nationalist views—was invited to say what he thought of the forthcoming visit. The answers filled a copious supplement, and their tenor was one of unanimous disapproval, expressed in some cases strongly, and in others in terms of studied moderation. Almost all the letters agreed in counselling an attitude of absolute indifference to the visit, but abstention from any kind of display of hostility to King Edward himself was insisted on; and it was openly said that the part which he was playing in this pageant was a more or less passive one. This showed significantly the personal liking and respect in which His Majesty was held.

It may be added that when King Edward and Queen Alexandra arrived, early in April 1885, the Nationalist party made no sign; but, as there was naturally a great display of rejoicing on the part of the Anti-Nationalist citizens, the Press, perhaps unfortunately, chose to regard this reception as a proof that the Home Rulers were wholly discredited.

The Nationalist leaders therefore made up their minds that it was necessary to make some protest against the Royal progress as an answer to these taunts, and accordingly, from Mallow till the Royal party left Ireland, they were the victims of some very unpleasing demonstrations, and at Cork collisions occurred between the police and the mob, though no serious injuries were reported on either side.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, called for short the "Colinderies," may be said to have been the most successful of all those with which King Edward was intimately associated. It was opened by Queen Victoria on May 4, 1886, and Her Majesty was received by the King and Queen Alexandra, His Majesty conducting his mother to the dais. In the Royal Albert Hall, where the opening ceremony took place, everything was done to make the scene as impressive and interesting as possible; and at the special desire of King Edward, Lord Tennyson wrote an Ode for the occasion, which was set to music by Sir Arthur Sullivan and sung by Madame Albani in the choir. This exhibition resulted in a net surplus of £35,000.

In September some correspondence between King Edward and the Lord Mayor, suggesting the estab-

lishment of a Colonial and Indian Institute to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, was published, and excited a great deal of interest both at home and in the Colonies. A public subscription was opened at the Mansion House, and later in the same month His Majesty, having been informed that a movement was on foot to present him with a testimonial in recognition of his services in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, wrote to request that any fund subscribed might be devoted to the furtherance of the Imperial Institute, and a great deal of his time that autumn was dedicated to this scheme.

King Edward, in 1886, also gave his patronage to two great engineering achievements, by opening the Mersey Tunnel and by laying the first stone of the Tower Bridge. It is interesting to note in this connection that His Majesty had long been an honorary member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and when he attended their annual dinner in the same year, he made an amusing speech, in which he attempted to picture what sort of a world ours would be without engineers.

One of the busiest years ever spent by King Edward and Queen Alexandra was 1887, when Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was celebrated. To His

Majesty was left the responsibility of a great number of the arrangements, and on him fell almost entirely the reception and entertainment of the foreign Royal personages who attended the splendid ceremony in the Abbey as Queen Victoria's guests. In many cases, King Edward was obliged to welcome in person the Royal visitor to London, and he was indefatigable in his efforts to make everything go off as smoothly and successfully as possible; while it need hardly be said that he took a very prominent part next to Queen Victoria in all the Jubilee functions.

It was in this year that His Majesty was appointed Honorary Admiral of the Fleet, a distinction which gave him much gratification, for it was his first definite official link with the service which he had selected as the profession of his younger son, and in which his elder son had received an early training—a link which was destined to be still further strengthened after His Majesty's accession, as will be related hereafter.

CHAPTER XIII.

SILVER WEDDING OF KING EDWARD AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA—ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS LOUISE.

CONSIDERABLE preparations were made early in 1888 for the silver wedding of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, but it was well known that the Royal family were expecting daily to hear of the death of the old German Emperor, William I., which actually occurred just before the silver wedding-day, and everything in the way of public rejoicing was countermanded. Still, March 10 was not allowed to pass entirely unobserved. The whole of the Royal family then in England, preceded by Queen Victoria, called at Marlborough House to offer their congratulations in person, and for that one day the Court mourning was abandoned. King Edward and Queen Alexandra with their family lunched at Buckingham Palace with Queen Victoria, while in the evening the Sovereign attended a family dinner-

party at Marlborough House, this being the first time she had ever been to dinner with her son and daughter-in-law in London.

Archbishop Magee (then Bishop of Peterborough) writes, in a letter to his intimate friend and biographer, Canon MacDonnell, the following amusing account of his share in the rejoicings :—

ATHENÆUM CLUB, *March 11, 1888.*

Did you ever in your eminently respectable life dance on the tight rope? And did you ever do so in the presence of Royalty? No? Then I have beaten you.

For I have this day performed that exceedingly difficult feat, and dead beat do I feel after it. I suppose you saw (for it was announced in all the papers) that H.R.H. was to worship at Whitehall with all his family, to keep his silver wedding, and that the Bishop of Peterborough was to preach. Not an easy thing to do, under any circumstances, to preach to Royalty in a pew opposite you, and also to a large middle-class congregation on a special occasion. But only think of having to add to this a special allusion to the late Emperor of Germany's death, and the present Emperor's condition, and all this within the space of forty minutes, the utmost length that it is considered good taste to inflict on H.R.H. Add to this that he specially requested an offertory for the Gordon Boys' Home, and of course implied some reference in the sermon to this. So that I had, within forty minutes, to preach a charity sermon, a wedding sermon, and a funeral one. Match me that if you can for difficulty. . . .

An enormous number of presents testified to the wide affection and respect in which the Royal couple were held. King Edward gave his wife a

cross of diamonds and rubies, her favourite jewels ; and from St. Petersburg, as a joint gift of the Emperor and Empress of Russia, came a superb necklace of the same gems, composed of carefully selected stones. The five children of Queen Alexandra gave her a silver model of " Viva," her favourite mare.

The Freemasons of Great Britain presented Queen Alexandra with a splendid diamond butterfly. The members of the Bodyguard were represented by a silver statue of a member of the corps, arrayed in the uniform originally designed by the Prince Consort. The Comte de Paris sent a large agate punch-bowl studded with precious stones. Among the public gifts which afforded King Edward and Queen Alexandra most pleasure was the Colonial silver-wedding gift—a silver candelabrum adapted for electric light, and a fine twenty-one-day movement clock to match. The Colonies became very enthusiastic over this gift, and more than £2,000 was subscribed in small sums.

The presents received by King Edward and Queen Alexandra were arranged in the Indian Room at Marlborough House. A prominent position was accorded to the gift from Queen Victoria—a massive silver flagon of goodly height and proportions, the counterpart of one in the Kremlin. One corner of

the Indian Room was filled with floral gifts, bouquets, wreaths, pyramids of lilies of the valley, and rich and rare exotics, sent by all classes of the community from all parts of the country and from the Continent.

In strong contrast to these rejoicings was the deep shadow thrown over King Edward and his family by the serious illness of the Emperor Frederick. All the arrangements of their Majesties were naturally dependent on the news received almost hourly from the sick-chamber at Potsdam; but even in the midst of his terrible anxieties, King Edward did not disappoint the loyal citizens of Glasgow, whose Exhibition he had promised to open, and who gave him a right Royal welcome. At length the long-dreaded blow fell. On June 14 the Emperor Frederick breathed his last after a reign of ninety-nine days.

The following year was notable for the first break in King Edward's own family circle. But before the engagement of Princess Louise to the Earl of Fife was publicly announced, Queen Victoria paid one of her necessarily rare visits to Sandringham, spending altogether four days there.

Princess Louise's engagement was made public in the spring, and though it aroused almost as much

surprise as satisfaction among the general public, yet those who were really in a position to know regarded it as the most natural thing in the world. Lord Fife had for years been admitted to the close intimacy of King Edward's family circle. His was the only bachelor house at which Queen Alexandra had ever been entertained, and he had long been a frequent and welcome guest at Sandringham ; and when he took the oath and his seat in the House of Lords, His Majesty had paid him the rare honour of appearing as one of his introducers.

Although rumours of the betrothal of King Edward's eldest daughter to various foreign Princes had for some time been rife, His Majesty had made no secret of the special importance which he attached to her marriage ; for at that time it appeared by no means impossible that the Princess herself or her children might one day sit on the British throne. In these circumstances, a foreign marriage of the particular kind which then seemed intrinsically probable would have been frankly unpopular with the British people, who would have pictured themselves as being perhaps one day reduced to bringing back their Queen, now wholly Germanised, from some obscure grand duchy.

King Edward on this occasion showed once more

his intuitive sympathy with the feelings of his future subjects, for the news of the Royal engagement was received with an absolutely unforced outburst of popular enthusiasm, the more so when it became known that it was entirely a love match.

Lord Fife was created Duke of Fife on his wedding-day, having declined to take the title of Duke of Inverness.

The marriage was celebrated in the Chapel of Buckingham Palace, in the presence of Queen Victoria, King Edward, and Queen Alexandra, with their sons and two younger daughters, the King of the Hellenes, the Crown Prince of Denmark, and the Grand Duke of Hesse.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE BACCARAT CASE—BIRTH OF LADY ALEXANDRA
DUFF—KING EDWARD'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY—
ILLNESS OF PRINCE GEORGE—DEATH OF THE
DUKE OF CLARENCE.

DURING the winter of 1890 various rumours had been rife as to a *cause célèbre* in which King Edward was to be called as a witness. These reports proved to have had substantial foundation in the following spring, when Sir William Gordon-Cumming, a cavalry officer of good family, who had distinguished himself in the Egyptian campaign, and was understood to enjoy the personal friendship of the King, brought an action for slander against five defendants—Mrs. Arthur Wilson, Mrs. A. S. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Lycett Green, and Mr. Berkeley Levett—who had accused him of cheating at baccarat at Tranby Croft, Mr. Arthur Wilson's house near Hull.

The trial opened early in June before Lord Chief-

Justice Coleridge, and King Edward was accommodated with a seat on the bench. The Court throughout wore the air of a theatre rather than of a Court of Justice, the bench and both the galleries being filled with ladies, who used their opera-glasses with freedom to discover the notable personages in Court, and to watch Sir William Gordon-Cumming under examination. The great counsel of the day were engaged. Sir Edward Clarke (Solicitor-General), with Mr. C. F. Gill as his junior, conducted the case for Sir William Gordon-Cumming; and Sir Charles Russell (afterwards Lord Chief-Justice), with Mr. Asquith, appeared for the defendants, the Attorney-General having withdrawn from the case.

The Solicitor-General made a speech of singular power and skill on behalf of his client. The point of the defence was that Sir William Gordon-Cumming—who was accused of the trick known as *la poussette*, by which a player at baccarat increases his stake after he sees that the cards are in his favour or the *coup* has been declared—had simply been playing on a system. This theory Sir William supported in the witness-box with great steadiness, and though his cross-examination was most severe, he maintained that on no occasion had he wrongfully increased the stake. When the cross-examiner

came to a document which the plaintiff had signed, practically admitting his guilt, and which had been witnessed by King Edward, Sir William's explanation was, in effect, that he was hopeless of convincing those round him of his innocence, and that he desired for his own sake and that of others to avoid a scandal.

King Edward entered the witness-box, and was sworn in the ordinary way on the second day. Sir Edward Clarke addressed him as "Sir" and "Your Royal Highness," and Sir Charles Russell did the same. His Majesty gave his evidence with much frankness, but it was largely of a formal character. He did, however, say that at the time when, as banker, he questioned Sir William Gordon-Cumming on the largeness of his winnings, he did not think he had been cheating; but he added, in cross-examination by Sir Charles Russell, that in advising Sir William Gordon-Cumming to sign the document, he considered he had been acting most leniently.

As King Edward was leaving the witness-box an amusing incident occurred. A juryman rose from the back of the jury-box, and with *naïf* frankness put two important questions—whether King Edward had ever seen Sir William Gordon-Cumming cheat-

ing, and whether he believed him to be guilty. In reply to the first question, His Majesty answered that the banker would not be in a position to see foul play, and that among friends it would not be expected; to the second, he replied that, Sir William's accusers being so numerous, he could not but believe them. Having elicited these very important facts, the little juryman sat down, and King Edward left the box with a smile and a bow.

King Edward's evidence was followed by that of General Owen Williams, who, with Lord Coventry, drew up the document signed by the plaintiff. General Williams made two statements—that he personally believed Sir William guilty, and that King Edward had objected to Sir William placing his hands on the table in such a way that the counters could not properly be seen. In the course of the evidence it came out that the stakes played for on the two evenings were not large, but that Sir William won in all £225, which was paid him by cheque and which he retained.

The trial lasted seven days, and on June 9 the jury, after ten minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict for the defendants.

The most extraordinary interest was taken in the case, both in this country and on the Continent and

in America—no doubt chiefly owing to the Heir-Apparent's connection with it. A Prince of Wales has rarely been called as a witness in a case, although, of course, in the theory of English law all men are equal, and he would be regarded simply as a peer of the realm.

It was pointed out by many that the conduct attributed to Sir William Gordon-Cumming was obviously not that of an officer and a gentleman, and in the House of Commons a week after the trial the Secretary of State for War expressed the regret of King Edward that he had not required Sir William to submit his case to the Commander-in-Chief.

The criticism which was directed against King Edward's connection with this lamentable business was largely based on ignorance of all the circumstances. His Majesty's own view is clearly stated in a private letter which he wrote about two months afterwards to his old friend Dr. Benson, who was then Archbishop of Canterbury, and which was first published in that prelate's life, some years later. King Edward wrote :—

R. YACHT "OSBORNE," COWES,
August 13, 1891.

MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—Your kind letter of the 10th instant has touched me very much, as I know the kind feelings which prompted you to write to me on a subject which we have dis-

cussed together, and which you are aware has caused me deep pain and annoyance.

A recent trial, which no one deplores more than I do, and which I was powerless to prevent, gave occasion for the Press to make most bitter and unjust attacks on me, knowing that I was defenceless, and I am not sure that politics were not mixed up in it ! The whole matter has now died out, and I think therefore it would be inopportune for me in any public manner to allude again to the painful subject which brought such a torrent of abuse upon me, not only by the Press, but by the Low Church, and especially the Nonconformists.

They have a perfect right, I am well aware, in a free country like our own, to express their opinions, but I do not consider that they have a just right to jump at conclusions regarding myself without knowing the facts.

I have a horror of gambling, and should always do my utmost to discourage others who have an inclination for it, as I consider that gambling, like intemperance, is one of the greatest curses which a country could be afflicted with.

Horse-racing may produce gambling or it may not, but I have always looked upon it as a manly sport which is popular with Englishmen of all classes, and there is no reason why it should be looked upon as a gambling transaction. Alas ! those who gamble will gamble at anything. I have written quite openly to you, my dear Archbishop, whom I have had the advantage of knowing for so many years.

Thanking you again for your kind letter, and trusting that you will benefit by your holiday, believe me, sincerely yours,

ALBERT EDWARD.

King Edward became a grandfather for the first time this spring, for on May 17 the Duchess of Fife gave birth to a daughter at East Sheen Lodge. The question was immediately raised whether the infant should take Royal rank as a Princess of the Blood. When Sir William Beechey painted his portrait of

Princess Victoria, the distance between the Duke of Kent's little daughter and the throne was as great as, or even greater than, that of the little daughter of the future Princess Royal at her birth. It was ultimately settled, in accordance with the wishes, it was understood, of both King Edward and the Duke of Fife, that the infant should simply take the rank and precedence of a Duke's daughter, and be called Lady Alexandra Duff.

This autumn, King Edward celebrated his fiftieth birthday, and it was computed that in his half-century of existence, His Majesty must have been prayed for aloud in Anglican churches alone at least a hundred million times.

The month of December has been one of peculiar ill omen to the Royal family, and it seemed as if December 1891 was to prove no exception; for Queen Alexandra and her daughters, who had been to Livadia on a visit to the Tsar, were recalled by the illness of the King's younger son, and their Majesties went through some days of terrible anxiety. As soon as Prince George was declared to be suffering from enteric fever he was removed from Sandringham to London, and it was there that he was nursed. The illness evoked a remarkable degree of public sympathy, though perhaps the serious

nature of the Prince's condition was hardly realised till all danger was practically over.

The year 1892 opened auspiciously both for the Royal family and for the nation, inasmuch as, immediately on the convalescence of Prince George, the engagement of his elder brother, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck was announced. The public career of the Duke of Clarence, short as it had been, had already confirmed him in the public estimation as a worthy son of his father, who was known to have actively superintended the whole course of his education. A significant proof of the young Prince's amiability and unpretending modesty was to be found in the large number of personal friends whom he attached to himself, both at Cambridge and among his comrades of the 10th Hussars, by ties of sincere esteem.

On January 9 the Duke of Clarence, who was spending the Christmas holidays with his parents at Sandringham, was attacked with influenza, having caught cold at the funeral of Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenbourg.

Notwithstanding the most devoted care and the most skilful nursing, the Prince passed away on the 14th, within a week of the day on which the tidings of his illness had first gone forth. Then, if ever,

King Edward and Queen Alexandra must have realized the respect and affection with which they were regarded by the British people. Their Majesties received the most touching letters from all over the world. One of those they most valued was from the Zulu chiefs at St. Helena. This was conveyed to the Prince through Miss Colenso, and ran as follows :—

We have heard of the death of Prince Edward, the son of the Prince of Wales. We lament sincerely. Pray you present our lamentation to them all—to his grandmother, to his father and his mother, and his brother.

Their Majesties showed how deeply they appreciated the sympathy so spontaneously offered to them on every side by publishing the following message :—

WINDSOR CASTLE, *January 20, 1892.*

The Prince and Princess of Wales are anxious to express to Her Majesty's subjects, whether in the United Kingdom, in the Colonies, or in India, the sense of their deep gratitude for the universal feeling of sympathy manifested towards them at a time when they are overwhelmed by the terrible calamity which they have sustained in the loss of their beloved eldest son. If sympathy at such a moment is of any avail, the remembrance that their grief has been shared by all classes will be a lasting consolation to their sorrowing hearts, and if possible will make them more than ever attached to their dear country.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Benson) was at Biskra when he heard of the lamentable death of

the Duke of Clarence. The Archbishop wished to return home at once, and in sending a telegram of condolence to the bereaved father, he stated his intention of so doing; but King Edward, with his usual kindly consideration, telegraphed to him that he was on no account to curtail his holiday. The telegram was followed by a letter, of which the following is a part:—

It has pleased God to inflict a heavy, crushing blow upon us—that we can hardly realise the terrible loss we have sustained. We have had the good fortune of receiving you here in our country home on more than one occasion, and you know what a happy family party we have always been, so that the wrenching away of our first-born son under such peculiarly sad circumstances is a sorrow, the shadow of which can never leave us during the rest of our lives.

He was just twenty-eight; on this day month he was to have married a charming and gifted young lady, so that the prospect of a life of happiness and usefulness lay before him. Alas! that is all over. His bride has become his widow without ever having been his wife.

The ways of the Almighty are inscrutable, and it is not for us to murmur, as He does all for the best, and our beloved son is happier now than if he were exposed to the miseries and temptations of this world. We have also a consolation in the sympathy not only of our kind friends but of all classes.

God's will be done!

By King Edward's special wish his elder son was given the simplest of military funerals, and the coffin was removed from Sandringham to Windsor on a gun-carriage, escorted by a number of the

Prince's old comrades-in-arms. On the coffin lay the Prince's busby and a silken Union Jack; and even at Windsor, where among the impressive mass of mourners every Royal house was represented, everything was severely simple, and the pall-bearers were not Royal personages, but the Duke's brother-officers of the 10th Hussars.

After the death of the Duke of Clarence, King Edward and his family naturally retired into the deepest privacy, and it was many months before His Majesty had sufficiently recovered from the blow to be able to take up again the thread of his public duties.

CHAPTER XV.

THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING-CLASSES—MARRIAGE
OF PRINCE GEORGE—THE DIAMOND JUBILEE—
DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF TECK.

THE year 1893 brought to King Edward a very fortunate distraction, which prevented his mind from dwelling too much on his still recent bereavement in a way that could not have been accomplished by the customary round of ceremonial visits and functions. This distraction was his appointment as a member of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Poor. His Majesty was genuinely delighted with this opportunity. He threw himself with the greatest zeal into the work, and not only attended all the sittings—which took place in one of the House of Lords Committee Rooms—but visited *incognito* some of the very poorest quarters of London. He was exceedingly anxious to serve on the Labour Commission, but Ministers have always been unwilling that the Heir-Apparent

should take an active part in matters connected, even indirectly, with politics; and he had therefore constantly to play the part of the Sovereign's deputy without the responsibilities and interests naturally attaching to the position.

There were few men who possessed better general qualifications for the difficult work of serving on Royal Commissions than King Edward. He was familiar with an almost bewildering variety of subjects, and possessed a wonderful faculty for almost instinctively grasping the important features and the really essential points of any matter under discussion. He was a model chairman of a committee, and though he could not ever display the slightest trace of personal or party feeling, it was well known that he followed with intense interest all the political and social movements of the day, and it was no secret that he was thoroughly an Imperialist.

King Edward's work on the Housing of the Poor Commission was particularly congenial to him, for he had always shown an unaffected interest in the working-classes. He had long been an annual subscriber to the Working-Men's Club and Institute Union, and was a generous donor to the Working-Men's College.

Throughout the year 1893, King Edward was busily employed in other ways also. In May he had the satisfaction of seeing that great enterprise which he had himself originated, the Imperial Institute, inaugurated in State by his Royal mother. It was at the Institute that Mr. Gladstone was hissed by some unmannerly persons, to the great annoyance of King Edward, who never concealed the strong respect and esteem in which he held both Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone.

The official announcement was made, appropriately enough in May, of the betrothal of King Edward's son, then Duke of York, to Princess May of Teck; and after a very short engagement, the marriage took place in the Chapel-Royal, St. James's, on July 6, in the presence of all the Royal family, as well as the Emperor of Russia and the King and Queen of Denmark. King Edward naturally took a prominent part in supervising all the arrangements, and was much gratified by the outburst of popular enthusiasm which greeted his son's union with the daughter of the universally beloved Duchess of Teck.

It is interesting to note how frequently, ever since the marriage, King Edward associated his heir with himself in the performance of his public duties, while the constant companionship of father and son

was a striking testimony to their complete sympathy with one another.

King Edward went to Coburg in April to be present at the wedding of his niece, Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and his nephew, the Grand Duke of Hesse, the only son of the lamented Princess Alice. The occasion brought together a remarkable number of prominent members of Royal houses, including Queen Victoria and the German Emperor, and was rendered additionally memorable by the fact that the engagement of the present Tsar of Russia to the bridegroom's sister was then publicly announced. King Edward, who was on this occasion accompanied by Queen Alexandra, went to St. Petersburg in August for the wedding of the Grand Duchess Xenia.

Although the Tsar was not then in his usual robust health, there was nothing to indicate how soon King Edward and Queen Alexandra were to be called to Russia on a far different mission. To their lasting sorrow, the summons to the Tsar's deathbed at Livadia arrived too late for them to be present at the last. Their Majesties left London on October 31, immediately on receipt of an urgent message from the Tsaritsa, and had proceeded as far as Vienna when the news was broken to them

that all was over. They, however, continued their melancholy journey, in order that they might be with the widowed Empress and her son through the terrible strain of the return to St. Petersburg and the ordeal of the funeral ceremonies.

King Edward's fifty-third birthday was spent at Livadia, and for the first time since his birth the anniversary celebrations in London and Sandringham did not take place.

When the funeral cortège reached St. Petersburg, Prince George joined his parents, and together they attended the elaborate obsequies of the Emperor and the very quiet wedding of the young Tsar and Princess Alix of Hesse, which followed a few days later.

The relations between England and Russia after King Edward's return became noticeably more cordial, and there is no doubt that this was owing in a large measure to His Majesty's personal exertions, and the sympathy which he and his son displayed with the Russian people in their great sorrow.

In July 1894 their Majesties attended the Welsh Eisteddfod at Carnarvon, where they were received with great enthusiasm. A special session was held, at which King Edward was initiated as "Iorweth Dywysog" (Edward the

Prince), Queen Alexandra as " Hoffder Prydain " (Britain's Delight), and Princess Victoria as " Bud-dug " (the modern Welsh form of Boadicea).

King Edward was always willing to emphasise his connection with the Principality from which he then took his title, and when the long-desired University of Wales became an accomplished fact, he readily consented to be its first Chancellor. His Majesty was installed in this office at Aberystwith in June 1896, and his first act as Chancellor was to confer an honorary degree on Queen Alexandra. At the luncheon which followed, King Edward's health was proposed by Mr. Gladstone.

In the following month, the marriage of Princess Maud to Prince Charles of Denmark took place in the chapel of Buckingham Palace in the presence of Queen Victoria and the Royal families of the two countries.

King Edward, for a variety of reasons, took a much greater part in the Diamond Jubilee festivities of 1897 than he did in those of ten years before. All the arrangements were submitted for his approval as well as Queen Victoria's, and it was largely owing to his conspicuous organising ability that everything went off with such triumphant success. Both His Majesty and Queen Alexandra associated themselves

in a special manner with the occasion, the former by his Hospital Fund for London, and the latter by her thoughtful scheme for providing one good dinner for the very poorest. The Hospital Fund greatly benefited by the sale of a special stamp, the design of which was selected by King Edward himself.

King Edward, who had been made an honorary Admiral of the Fleet at the Golden Jubilee of 1887, represented his mother at the magnificent Naval Review at Spithead, which was generally agreed to be, in its way, the finest spectacle of all that the Jubilee festivities afforded. Many foreign warships were sent by other countries as tokens of international courtesy. The spectacle of so vast a concourse of British vessels was rendered doubly impressive by the knowledge that it had been assembled without weakening in the slightest degree the squadrons on the numerous British naval stations all over the world. There was much point in the remark said to have been made by the United States Special Ambassador to the First Lord : " I guess, sir, this makes for peace ! "

On the eventful morning of June 22, when the Jubilee honours were announced, it was found that Queen Victoria, while conferring some mark of her

favour on each of her sons, had created a new and special dignity for the Heir-Apparent. The announcement was made in the following terms :—

The Queen has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, to appoint Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., G.C.B., to be Great Master and Principal Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

That this distinction was very gratifying to King Edward was significantly shown in the following month, when he gave a great banquet at St. James's Palace to the Knights Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in celebration of his appointment. It was an absolutely unique gathering of men who had rendered distinguished service to the State in statesmanship, in diplomacy, in the profession of arms, in the navy, and in the departments of civil administration.

In July, His Majesty was elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London at a *comitia* of the College—an honour which he valued highly. As a non-medical Fellow, King Edward had had only three predecessors—the Marquis of Dorchester in 1658, the Duke of Manchester in 1717, and the Duke of Richmond in 1729. The Royal diploma was, it is understood, specially composed

for the occasion, and did not give the new Fellow complete freedom to practise in his new profession ! Later on, His Majesty was destined to experience in his own person the marvellous benefits which modern surgery has placed at the service of suffering humanity.

The rest of the Diamond Jubilee year was spent in comparative quietude by King Edward and Queen Alexandra, although His Majesty took an active part in the exceptionally brilliant season. He attended, among other great functions, the fancy dress ball given by the Duchess of Devonshire, wearing on this occasion the splendid costume of the Grand Master of the Knights-Hospitallers of Malta.

The death of the Duchess of Teck on October 27 was a great blow to King Edward and Queen Alexandra. There had been practically no warning, so that the news came with equal suddenness both to the Royal family and the nation. Their Majesties immediately hurried up from Sandringham, and afterwards, at the deeply impressive funeral in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, His Majesty represented his Royal mother.

This bereavement was the more terrible from its utter unexpectedness, and, as has been so singularly

often the case in our Royal family, it happened in the autumn. Princess Mary, who stood in the relation of second cousin to King Edward, was, although belonging technically to the same generation as Queen Victoria, but a few years older than His Majesty, and the most affectionate and close relations had always existed between them—a fact shown on many occasions throughout their joint lives, and nowhere more strikingly than in the great satisfaction expressed by both King Edward and Queen Alexandra at the marriage of their only surviving son to the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck.

CHAPTER XVI.

LATER YEARS—A SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO KING EDWARD—GRADUAL RECOVERY—THE ATTEMPT ON KING EDWARD'S LIFE.

THE year 1898, destined to bring His Majesty a serious accident and a tedious convalescence, opened uneventfully.

In March, King Edward went to Cannes, and saw President Faure in Paris on his way thither. On March 10, His Majesty laid the first stone of the new jetty at Cannes in the midst of a brilliant assemblage. He said, speaking to the Mayor :—

You know what pleasure it gives me to spend a few weeks in your beautiful country, where I always meet with a hospitable reception. . . . In laying the first stone of the new jetty, in accordance with your kind wish, I desire to tell you especially how touched I was at your having thought of giving it my name. I trust that the very wise and unanimous impulse given by you to yachting at Cannes will not fail of its effect. You can safely rely upon my support, for I am sincerely glad to see this friendly competition between our two countries developed, and, as you have so well said, I hope with you that this ceremony may be a fresh pledge of cordial relations between France and Great Britain.

This spring, His Majesty was much occupied with the preparations for the Paris Exhibition of 1900. He was chairman of both the executive and the finance committee of the Royal Commission which was appointed to see that Great Britain was adequately represented.

The death of Mr. Gladstone caused much sorrow both to His Majesty and to Queen Alexandra, who had frequently demonstrated the regard in which they held the veteran statesman and his devoted wife. At the funeral of Mr. Gladstone in the Abbey, on May 28, King Edward was the chief pall-bearer with his son Prince George, and at the close of the service, with the other pall-bearers, they kissed the hand of Mrs. Gladstone.

On June 8, Queen Alexandra presented prizes in the Albert Hall to the boys of the Royal Masonic Institution at Woodgreen. His Majesty, in acknowledging a vote of thanks to her, said :—

Though the Princess has set a good example, as the wife of a Freemason, in not attempting to discover the secrets of our craft, I think she has taken a philanthropic interest in all that concerns our works.

In June, too, King Edward paid a visit to Lord and Lady Warwick, and much enjoyed driving in a motor car, then a comparatively novel form of

conveyance. During the visit, Lady Warwick drove King Edward to Barford to call upon Mr. Joseph Arch, M.P., in his cottage. His Majesty had a high opinion of Mr. Arch, who had risen by his own exertions from a very humble origin, and at that time represented the electoral division of Norfolk in which Sandringham is situated.

King Edward met with a serious accident on July 18 while at Waddesdon Manor, Bucks, on a visit to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild. His Majesty slipped in descending a staircase, and sustained a fracture of the knee-cap, but was able to travel to Marlborough House the same afternoon. Not much progress was made, however, and on the 19th, Sir William MacCormac and Sir Francis Laking decided to call in the famous surgeon, Sir Thomas Smith, who had undoubtedly prolonged the Duchess of Teck's life. It is interesting to note that the Rontgen rays were employed to ascertain the extent of the injury, probably the first occasion of their being used for a Royal patient. Rest was compulsory, and though it must have been irksome in the extreme to one of King Edward's active habits, yet nothing could exceed the cheerfulness displayed by the patient.

On the 21st, Lord Lister, the "father" of anti-

septic surgery, was called in, and with characteristic consideration, in view of the anxiety exhibited by the whole Empire, King Edward authorised the publication of a detailed statement regarding the accident.

From this it appeared that he missed his footing while coming down the spiral staircase at Waddesdon Manor, and in the sudden severe effort made to save himself from falling sustained a fracture of the left patella.

About one-fifth of the bone, somewhat crescentic in shape, was torn away, along with the tendinous insertion of the quadriceps extensor, and the gap between the fragments amounted to a little more than two inches.

Sir W. MacCormac and Sir Francis Laking concluded their statement by the remark that the illustrious patient "is bearing the enforced restraint with exemplary patience and good temper." Of course, what every one feared was some permanent lameness or weakness of the limb ; but this, as will be seen from what follows, was fortunately averted.

On the 23rd, Mr. Alfred Fripp, Surgeon-in-Ordinary, joined the other medical attendants, who in consultation decided that the patient might attend Cowes Regatta on board the Royal yacht *Osborne*. It was hoped that the change of scene would facili-

tate recovery, and the decision was also naturally gratifying to Queen Victoria, who was then in residence at Osborne, and wished to be near her son. It was characteristic of King Edward's kindly consideration that before leaving London for Cowes he sent a gold scarf-pin set with emeralds, and a letter of thanks, to Dr. Shaw, the local practitioner who had attended him at Waddesdon immediately after the accident.

On July 30, King Edward, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria, and Prince Nicholas and Princess Marie of Greece, left London for Cowes.

On August 6 it was announced that no further bulletins would be issued, as His Majesty's progress was so satisfactory. Queen Victoria paid him frequent visits, and the *Osborne* often went for short cruises, sometimes as far as the Needles, and King Edward was much gratified to have his son and daughter-in-law with him, as well as his grandchildren, the little Princes Edward and Albert.

At length, on the 23rd, the *Osborne* left for a longer cruise in the Channel, the programme including visits to Plymouth and Torquay. Mr. Fripp was in medical charge. This did the patient great good, and at some of the places at which the yacht touched he was able to obtain carriage exercise, four of the

Osborne's bluejackets having been drilled as a carrying party.

At this time, in spite of the tiresome restraints imposed on him by his accident, King Edward did another of those graceful little actions which have helped so much to strengthen his hold over the affections of his subjects all over the world. Some time before this, His Majesty had assisted Sir James Woodhead, then Mayor of Cape Town, to procure a mace for the city, made of oak from the timbers of Nelson's flagship the *Victory*. Unfortunately, the piece of wood sent out proved to be so much decayed as to be practically useless. Another application was made to King Edward, who again interested himself in the kindest manner in the matter, with the result that a fairly sound piece of wood was dispatched, and the grateful Council of Cape Town passed a unanimous resolution of thanks to their Royal benefactor. It is not a very important incident, but it illustrates His Majesty's willingness not only to take trouble, but to go on taking trouble.

King Edward spent part of the same autumn in Scotland, and on October 16, His Majesty returned to London, the only trace of his accident being a very slight limp, which was soon got rid of. Before the end of November the *Lancet* was able to assure

the public that King Edward's recovery was complete, and His Majesty showed his gratitude to Sir William MacCormac by his presence when, in the following February, the eminent surgeon delivered the Hunterian oration at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

King Edward soon returned to his active public life. On March 2, His Majesty presided at a meeting held at Marlborough House to establish the League of Mercy, the purpose of which was to promote more systematic contributions to his Hospital Fund for London.

The autumn of 1899 was signalised by the visit which was paid to this country by the German Emperor and Empress, who were accompanied by two of their sons, Prince Augustus William and Prince Oscar. King Edward naturally took a prominent part in the reception of the German Emperor, who particularly enjoyed some capital shooting on his uncle's estate at Sandringham. At the time of His Imperial Majesty's visit the British arms in South Africa were not meeting with conspicuous success, and various political motives were freely attributed to the Kaiser; but the mass of the British people were content to take the event for what it seemed to be—namely, a tribute of respect

to the venerated British Sovereign on the part of her grandson.

The year 1900 was perhaps the most eventful in King Edward's life, for it saw the first attempt that had ever been made to kill him. King Edward and Queen Alexandra left England in April for Copenhagen. As the train by which they were travelling to Denmark was leaving the Nord Station at Brussels in the evening, a youth named Sipido jumped on the footboard of the Royal carriage and fired two shots from a revolver into the saloon. Fortunately they completely missed His Majesty, who behaved with the utmost coolness, and as quickly as possible telegraphed a reassuring message to his Royal mother.

Sipido, who was, of course, instantly arrested, declared that he had intended "to kill the Prince because His Royal Highness had caused thousands of men to be slaughtered in South Africa." There is no doubt that the youth's mind had become infuriated, partly by Anarchist doctrines, partly by reading the abominable libels which for some time had been circulated in the disreputable Continental journals regarding the conduct of the war in South Africa. Unfortunately, it has to be recorded that not disreputable journals alone were guilty. For

instance, the issue of the *Kladderadatsch*, the German *Punch*, published just before the attack on King Edward, contained a paragraph of the grossest and most insulting character, completing a series of abominably scurrilous attacks on His Majesty. Widespread indignation was aroused, not only in the British Empire, but also throughout the Continent, and King Edward and Queen Alexandra were the recipients of many thousands of telegrams of sympathy and congratulation on His Majesty's happy escape.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra returned to London from Denmark on April 20, and their arrival was made the occasion of a really remarkable popular demonstration. A few days later the Press was requested to publish the following graceful acknowledgment from His Majesty :—

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, PALL MALL, S.W.

I have been deeply touched by the numerous expressions of sympathy and goodwill addressed to me on the occasion of the providential escape of the Princess of Wales and myself from the danger we have lately passed through.

From every quarter of the globe, from the Queen's subjects throughout the world, as well as from the representatives and inhabitants of foreign countries, have these manifestations of sympathy proceeded, and on my return to this country I received a welcome so spontaneous and hearty that I felt I was the recipient of a most gratifying tribute of genuine goodwill.

Such proofs of kind and generous feeling are naturally most highly prized by me, and will for ever be cherished in my memory.

ALBERT EDWARD.

The death of his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (Duke of Edinburgh), in the summer of 1900, was a bitter grief to King Edward, who was present with the German Emperor at the funeral. The succession to the principality had been the subject of a family arrangement on the death of the heir, Prince Alfred, in 1899. King Edward himself had, of course, long ago renounced his rights, and the next heir, the Duke of Connaught, on behalf of himself and his son Prince Arthur, did the same, with certain reservations. The duchy therefore passed to the young Duke of Albany, only son of the late Prince Leopold, who was then a boy in Mr. Benson's house at Eton.

On New Year's Day, 1901, King Edward was much gratified by the promotion of his son and heir to be Rear-Admiral, the more so as the Duke had fairly earned this advancement as judged by the ordinary standards of promotion in the navy. The position to which His Royal Highness was raised by the death of his elder brother, of course, rendered it impossible for him thenceforward to be so closely associated with the sea service as, for example, his

uncle the Duke of Edinburgh had been, and the step in rank was no doubt conferred in anticipation of the Duke's approaching visit to Australia to inaugurate the Federal Parliament. The promotion was followed a day or two afterwards by the appointment of the Duke to be Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Marine Forces.

CHAPTER XVII.

KING EDWARD AS A COUNTRY SQUIRE.

SANDRINGHAM is so closely associated in the public mind with King Edward and Queen Alexandra, whose country home it was for so many years, that no apology is needed for devoting to it a special chapter.

When King Edward was about to set up a separate establishment, Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort instructed some of their most trusted friends to look out for a suitable country estate for the Heir-Apparent. Lord Palmerston seems to have suggested Sandringham, which at that time belonged to his stepson, Mr. Spencer Cowper, and accordingly the Norfolk estate was bought for £220,000.

The estate consisted of eight thousand acres, the nominal rental being about £7,000 a year; but everything about Sandringham was at that time in very bad order. The house was small and dilapidated, and the shooting and outlying portions of the estate had been utterly neglected.

The old mansion, which was small and inconvenient, was pulled down, and the present house was erected on a more suitable site, from the designs of Mr. Humbert. The work was not completed till 1871. The new mansion is a very pretty gabled building, and though commodious enough, it will not compare in point of size with many of the "stately homes of England."

The Royal host and hostess, as well as their family and their guests, were wont to spend much of their time in the great hall, a really beautiful apartment, with a lofty ceiling of open oak work. Many family souvenirs were gathered here, including a fine painting of Queen Alexandra's birthplace; portraits of the King and Queen of Denmark; two miniature cannon, which were given by Napoleon III. to King Edward and to his sister, the Empress Frederick; and a number of family portraits and photographs. Facing the main entrance is the head of a wild bull, belonging to the famous Chillingham herd, which was shot by His Majesty in 1872. Underneath are Sir Walter Scott's lines:—

"Fierce on the hunter's quivered band
He rolls his eyes of swarthy glow,
Spurns with black hoof and horn the sand,
And tosses high his mane of snow."

Though Sandringham could boast of no wild

cattle, yet King Edward was for many years a breeder of shorthorns and Southdown sheep on a large scale, and it was difficult to estimate the benefits which his example in this respect conferred on the great agricultural industry. His Majesty was always a very keen competitor at the various national and local shows, and he took his duties as President of the Royal Agricultural Society very seriously. All the Norfolk shows, from the flower show to the poultry show, were patronised by their Majesties ; and in this, as in so many other matters, the Squire of Sandringham set an excellent example to those round him. The Allotments Act was practically anticipated at Sandringham, and the tenants of His Majesty knew that he interpreted very generously any Act telling in their favour.

The Royal Agricultural Society held its annual meeting in Dublin in 1871, when King Edward paid one of his visits to Ireland. At the annual banquet of the Society, His Majesty spoke in terms which demonstrated in the clearest manner his interest in agriculture. He said, in the course of an unusually long speech :—

The theme before me—prosperity to Ireland—is one that might be enlarged upon greatly. No one wishes more sincerely than I do prosperity to this country. No one in the large assem-

blage which crowds this hall, and no one outside this hall, could more largely wish for the prosperity of Ireland which is so dear to them . . . I may say that what will do more than anything else towards making a country prosperous is the extension of its agriculture. It was with great pleasure that I accepted the position of President of the Royal Agricultural Society, and it afforded me great pleasure to be present at the Show to-day. My brother has already alluded in his speech to the fine animals we saw, and I may add that I feel sure that in no other part of the United Kingdom could a more creditable Show be held than that which was opened near Dublin this morning. During the last four years there has been a great improvement in every respect in the shows of the Royal Agricultural Societies . . .

I am assured that if the many gentlemen and landlords who very often find some difficulty in leaving England, but who have large interests and large estates in this country, could contrive to come over here more frequently, it would do more good than anything else I could imagine. I am certain that they are anxious to come over, and that their relations with their tenantry and those around them should be in every respect good. I may also here refer to the great improvement made in the erection of farm buildings and cottages. Beyond doubt there has been progress in the direction of improvement there; but still I believe much yet remains to be done. Everything depends upon the well-being of the people, and if they are properly lodged it tends to cleanliness, and very possibly to moral advantage.

Perhaps I may be allowed to speak of a slight personal experience in that matter. I have a small estate in Norfolk, and observed myself the great importance of providing suitable small cottages for those resident there, and, having done so, now reap immense advantage.

In the following year (June 19, 1872), King Edward and Queen Alexandra visited King's Lynn to see the annual exhibition of the Norfolk Agricultural

Society. At the entrance to the show, His Majesty said, in reply to the usual address presented on these occasions :—

It has been a source of the greatest gratification to have had it in my power to contribute in any degree to the success of your association and to promote the interests of agriculture in Norfolk. It is with these feelings that I have endeavoured to make myself acquainted with some of the operations in farming, and to acquire some knowledge of stock; and if I have not always been successful in the path of competition, I have at least obtained prizes sufficient to encourage me to persevere and to indulge in the hope that I shall obtain more.

This hope of His Majesty's was certainly justified, for he not only carried off six prizes at this Norfolk show, but he was thereafter a regular prize-winner at the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society, the Bath and West of England, and other important exhibitions.

In other speeches on the same occasion at King's Lynn, His Majesty said that during the ten years in which he had lived in Norfolk he had endeavoured not to lag behind those other county landlords who so ably fulfilled their duties. His late father, the Prince Consort, always felt the greatest interest in agriculture, and used to take his children to inspect his prize animals.

King Edward also referred to the housing of the agricultural labourer, and said that a landlord ought

to feel a pride in having the working-classes properly housed on his estate. Those who worked from morning to night should find on their return a comfortable dwelling, which would promote their moral and social well-being. He had endeavoured to improve the cottages on his own estate, and he felt pride and satisfaction in having his workmen properly housed.

Of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, King Edward was always a generous friend and supporter, and the spread of agricultural depression naturally made His Majesty's support of exceptional value. King Edward spoke, for example, at the fifteenth anniversary festival of the Institution, held on June 5, 1875 :—

I sincerely say that I do take a great interest in all that is connected with agriculture. I may call myself a colleague of many of o present as a farmer on a small scale, and I only hope that I may never have occasion to be a pensioner of this institution. It is impossible, I think, for any British gentleman to live at his country place without taking an interest in agriculture, and in all those things which concern the farmers of this great country. The very backbone of the country, the best recruits of the Army and Navy, come from the agricultural districts. We know that our commercial and agricultural interests depend upon the valour and efficiency of our land and sea forces.

On this occasion, King Edward added a toast which had been most ungallantly omitted from the

list—that of “The Ladies,” and in proposing it he said :—

We have been honoured on this occasion by fair ladies, and I think it would be very wrong if we were to separate without cordially drinking their health. We see especially how much the comfort, well-being, prosperity, and happiness of farmers and agriculturalists depend upon a kind wife to cheer them by the fireside at the end of their day's work, and to lighten by female influence the load of difficulties.

To those who study King Edward's personal nature and character, no apartment at Sandringham can be more interesting than the library, or rather that section of the libraries—for there are three—which was specially appropriated to His Majesty. A glance at the shelves shows what were King Edward's literary tastes and preferences. He was evidently intensely interested in the history of our own time. Several shelves were entirely devoted to works dealing with the Indian Mutiny, including the official reports, memoirs, histories, and even novels. His Majesty always bought every new work connected with the public or private administration of his Eastern Empire. Special attention had also evidently been paid to the Crimean War, and there is a rich collection of Colonial histories and documents.

As Prince of Wales, King Edward transacted much

of the business connected with the Sandringham estate in a pleasant morning-room. There he received at stated times the bailiffs and others concerned in the management of the estate, and, as he farmed himself over a thousand acres, he had much to do in the way of supervision.

In 1891 the entire roofing of the main building of Sandringham House, together with all the rooms and their contents on the two upper floors, was destroyed by fire. The bells of the various churches in the district clashed out the alarm. Gangs of men and women speedily set to work to clear the principal lower rooms of their furniture and rare, valuable, and interesting contents. Queen Alexandra was staying with the Empress of Russia, and King Edward was also away at the time. The amount of damage done was about £15,000. That portion of the house which was destroyed was rebuilt in a thoroughly fire-proof fashion, with iron and concrete floors and roofs; and the opportunity was taken of making many additions to various portions of the house; in fact, about eighteen rooms were added. It was very characteristic of King Edward that, by his orders, the general works were all carried out by local tradesmen.

This chapter must not be concluded without a

reference to a curious little book, published some years ago by one who must be regarded as unique—namely, an aggrieved tenant at Sandringham. This lady had differences with the agent of the estate, and to revenge herself for her supposed grievances she wrote an obviously prejudiced account of her late landlord at his country home. The following extracts from the book written by this hostile witness are therefore significant indeed of the tenor of King Edward's life in Norfolk :—

Whenever I went (to Sandringham) I never failed to spend a pleasant evening, and received more courtesy from my illustrious host and hostess than from any house I ever was in. The Prince is noted for his powers of entertainment and exertion to make every one enjoy themselves. When a "house-party" is expected he superintends the arrangements and remembers their particular tastes and pursuits. A gouty squire who once grumbled at having to go, was completely mollified at finding a room prepared for him on the ground floor, the Prince thinking he would prefer it. The effect of a visit to Sandringham upon a certain order of Radicals, who are treated with the greatest deference, is perfectly astounding. It acts as a patent conjuring machine—a Republican stuffed in at one end, a Courtier squeezed out at the other.

The Sandringham festivities were so arranged that all classes could share in them; and what with county farmers' and servants' balls, labourers' dinners, visits to country houses, meets of the hounds, and other sociabilities, everybody from far and near had the opportunity of making acquaintance with their Royal Highnesses.

Of the servants' parties at Sandringham she says :—

The house-party, equerries, ladies-in-waiting, and all invited from the neighbourhood, were ordered to join in, no shirking or sitting out allowed; and when the sides had been made up, the Prince and Princess set off with their partners, round and round, down the middle and up again, and so on to the end, the Prince the jolliest of the jolly and the life of the party, as he is wherever he goes. I never saw such amazing vitality. His own Master of the Ceremonies, signalling and sending messages to the band, arranging every dance, and when to begin and when to leave off, noticing the smallest mistake in the figures, and putting the people in their places. In the "Triumph," which is such an exhausting dance, he looked as if he could have gone on all night and into the middle of next week without stopping, and I really believe he could. . . . Almost before one dance was ended the Prince started another, and suddenly the Scotch pipers would screech out, and the Prince would fold his arms and fling himself into a Highland fling, and so on fast and furious until far into the small hours of the morning.

After his accession, King Edward could not bring himself to give up Sandringham, where he had spent so many happy years, and there both he and Queen Alexandra led very much the same pleasant, unostentatious life as they had led when Prince and Princess of Wales. They entertained house-parties of distinguished guests, particularly for the private celebration of his birthday. The hospitalities of Sandringham were altogether more home-like than the splendid entertainment of Windsor or Buckingham Palace. None of the Royal family appeared at breakfast, and guests staying at Sandringham could breakfast in their

own rooms if they wished it, or come down to the meal served at several little tables for sociable parties of four or six.

King Edward would make his appearance later on in the morning, and then there would generally be shooting, the ladies joining the guns at lunch. King Edward disliked elaborate luncheons, but his guests always had a most sustaining meal, generally served in a tent, a portable stove being carried with the hot dishes. The shooting-parties hardly ever exceeded eight or ten, and the bag was always laid out for His Majesty's inspection before being taken into the larder, which is one of the largest in the world, having space for some seven thousand head of game. The guns would generally return to the house for tea, served in the hall, when Queen Alexandra always presided. Every variety of cakes, hot and cold, would be served, especially Scotch shortbread, of which the King was very fond.

What little formality characterised the life at Sandringham was mainly to be seen at dinner. The Royal family, having assembled in a separate room, would make a formal entry into the great dining-room, which contains the marvellous Spanish tapestries presented to King Edward by the late

King of Spain, punctually at half-past eight. The menu was invariably short. King Edward was acknowledged to be an ideal host, and both he and his gracious Consort remembered in the most extraordinary way the individual tastes and even the fads of their humblest guests.

CHAPTER XVIII.

KING EDWARD IN LONDON.

NOT long after King Edward's accession extensive alterations were ordered to fit Buckingham Palace, which had been for a long time only occupied occasionally, to be the town house of His Majesty and Queen Alexandra.

No one can realise how much his merely social duties cost King Edward while he was Heir-Apparent. The invariable cheerfulness and courage with which he went through what must have soon become a terribly monotonous round, year after year, is the more admirable when it is remembered that it was actually made the basis for the assertion that he was excessively devoted to mere amusement. An American writer who had brought the charge, but, having discovered his error, had had the honesty and manliness to admit it, was

rewarded by receiving a letter from the Prince's secretary, in which occurred the following :—

The Prince cannot help feeling that you are a little hard and unjust upon him in your book ; he says unjust, because you evidently wrote about him without knowing his real character. There are many things which he is obliged to do which the outside world would call pleasures and amusements ; they are, however, often anything but a source of amusement to him, though his position demands that he should every year go through a certain round of social duties which bore him to death. But, while duly regretting those social pleasures, you pass over very lightly all the more serious occupations of his life.

King Edward never concealed his dislike of the immensely long, fatiguing banquets which were in his youth the rule rather than the exception ; indeed, he may be said to have revolutionised the British dinner-party, for Marlborough House dinner was never allowed to last much over an hour.

Some years ago, King Edward was rarely seen, even at dinner at a private house, without his favourite valet Macdonald, the son of the Prince Consort's *jager* ; and later, whenever His Majesty dined out, one of his own servants invariably accompanied him, and attended to him throughout the meal, whether it was a public banquet or a private dinner-party. Indeed, King Edward very rarely enjoyed the luxury of being alone ; even when walking up St. James's Street, or turning into

the Marlborough Club, he was almost invariably accompanied by one of his equerries ; and it need hardly be said that the most trustworthy detectives in the London police force were charged with the task of watching over his personal safety.

King Edward was always an enthusiastic admirer of the stage, and his tastes were so catholic that they ranged from melodrama at the Adelphi to grand opera at Covent Garden. When His Majesty had made up his mind that he would like to go to the theatre, the Royal box was booked in the ordinary way of business, and charged to his account, the price not being increased from the ordinary tariff. The only difference was that, if any other patron of the theatre had already engaged the Royal box, he was requested to waive his right. King Edward, however, was always reluctant that this should be done, and he generally requested his secretary to send a special note of thanks in his name.

Both King Edward and Queen Alexandra always desired to be treated exactly as if they belonged to the ordinary audience, and nothing annoyed them more than that attention should be drawn to them by the playing of the National Anthem or " God bless the Prince of Wales." At one time the

managers used to keep the curtain down till the Royal party arrived. King Edward heard of this, and was so troubled at the thought of the inconvenience thus caused to the public that he gave strict orders that the curtain was never to be kept down beyond the advertised time on his account. On the other hand, he always made a point of waiting till the final curtain had come down before rising to leave. The only occasion on which he ever broke this courteous rule was when he went to a theatre which had no private entrance. Then their Majesties always anticipated the final curtain by two or three minutes, so that their departure might not disturb the carriage arrangements of the rest of the audience.

A separate chapter might almost be written about King Edward as a smoker. At Sandringham he had a large number of cigar-cases and tobacco-boxes presented to him at various times by relatives and friends, as well as an immense collection of silver cigar-lighters. His Majesty was as generous in the matter of cigars as he was in the more important affairs of life, and in this connection a story is told which if it is not true certainly ought to be. It is said that on one occasion, before his accession, when attending a big fire, His Majesty

asked a reporter for some details, which were instantly given. At the conclusion of the conversation, King Edward offered his informant a cigar, which the latter immediately wrapped up in a page of his note-book and placed in his pocket. "Don't you smoke?" asked King Edward. "Oh yes," said the reporter; "but I am not likely ever to get another cigar from the Prince of Wales." His Majesty laughed, and once more producing his cigar-case, said, "You had better have another one—this time to smoke."

King Edward was at one time very fond of taking a hansom in the streets of London, and it is said that he always paid the driver half a sovereign whether the distance was long or short. His Majesty was patron of the Cabdrivers' Benevolent Association, and he took a marked interest in these hard-worked and deserving servants of the public, seldom missing the annual meeting, at which, indeed, some of his best speeches were delivered.

The greatest care had to be taken both by King Edward and by Queen Alexandra in selecting the tradesmen upon whom to confer the undoubted advantage of their custom. A royal warrant is naturally considered a great honour by the recipient, and any firm aspiring to be a warrant-holder must

supply the household for one year in a satisfactory manner before becoming eligible ; and should the firm become bankrupt, or even change its name, the warrant must be returned to the Comptroller of the Household.

King Edward did not confine his custom to any one London tailor ; on the contrary, he was careful to distribute his patronage, and it is a mistake to fancy that His Majesty paid very much more for his clothes than other people. His wardrobe was necessarily larger and more varied than that of a private individual. It would be difficult to overestimate King Edward's influence as an arbiter of fashion, especially in America, where every trifling change in his costume was faithfully reported and imitated, and also on the Continent. On the whole, his influence in matters of dress was strongly conservative. He had none of the Continental love of displaying uniforms, and his dress was always in good taste, because it was always suitable to the occasion on which it was worn.

His Majesty had an ever-increasing number of uniforms, military and other, which were worth quite £15,000, and were, of course, fully insured. It need hardly be said that King Edward had almost every Order in existence. King Edward's

own favourite among his Orders used to be that of Malta, the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of which the badge is the well-known Maltese cross suspended from a black ribbon.

CHAPTER XIX.

KING EDWARD AND STATE POLICY.

OUR polity has been called a Crowned Republic, a phrase which, in spite of its exaggeration, expresses tersely the fact that the constitutional Sovereign of this realm has constantly to reconcile duties which seem far apart, and even sometimes inconsistent. King Edward succeeded to a monarchy possessing great theoretical powers, which, however, had been, by the slow growth of custom, practically restricted to the exercise of an indirect advisory influence on State affairs—an influence which, however, showed a tendency to increase rather than to diminish.

The extraordinary tact which characterised King Edward is most clearly illustrated when we consider his relations towards the policy of the State. There was a time in the history of England when the Prince of Wales allied himself with one of the political parties in the country, and that not the one in which his father had confidence. The tradition

of constitutional monarchy established by Queen Victoria necessarily inaugurated a different *régime*, and no political party was ever able honestly to claim the Prince of Wales as an adherent, or even as a platonic sympathiser. On the other hand, not his severest critics ever accused him of apathy to British interests. In that higher sphere of patriotism which rises superior to the din of party politics he thoroughly earned the title of the typical Englishman.

All through the years which succeeded the death of the Prince Consort he discharged, as Prince of Wales, the duties of his position in such a way as to win the confidence of every section of the nation. He included among his friends the principal men of both the great political parties, and with such delicacy of feeling was this done, that no one could justly say which he really preferred. Indeed, so nice was his feeling that he was accustomed to distinguish—if he made any distinction at all—those statesmen who happened to be in Opposition at the moment, rather than those who were enjoying the sweets of office.

King Edward did not escape the penalty of irresponsible gossip. He undoubtedly displayed a great liking for Ireland and for the Irish people,

but it would be absurd to call him on that account a Home Ruler. Similarly, it is an interesting fact that both His Majesty and Queen Alexandra distinguished Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone by some special tokens of friendship ; but it is not justifiable on that account to assert that their Majesties were Liberals. The truth is that, throughout his career, His Majesty succeeded, while deeply interesting himself in politics, in steering steadily clear of party politics.

Perhaps the greatest of all the services which King Edward rendered to his country was the part which he played in foreign affairs. Without ever passing outside the limits of his strictly constitutional position, he yet contrived to render invaluable assistance to successive Foreign Ministers by his remarkable series of visits to foreign countries, and also by receiving foreign monarchs and the heads of foreign States, and their consorts, with magnificent hospitality, in London and at Windsor.

It is evident that King Edward, as soon as he was seated on the throne, deliberately marked out for himself the work of improving by his own personal efforts the foreign relations of Great Britain. At the time of His Majesty's accession,

owing largely to the South African war, this country was more unpopular than usual on the Continent.

The year 1902 was occupied by His Majesty's illness and the coronation. But in 1903 the King began that remarkable series of visits, meeting the King of Portugal, the King of Italy, and the President of the French Republic. There followed in subsequent years meetings with the Tsar, the Emperor Francis Joseph, the German Emperor, and the Kings of Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the Hellenes. In fact, since his accession to the throne, King Edward paid visits to eleven different countries in Europe, besides various islands in the Mediterranean, and Algiers. The only countries not visited were Turkey, Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland.

The effect of His Majesty's influence in foreign affairs was first perceived by the general public in the remarkable *entente cordiale* with France. It is impossible to estimate how great a part the King played in assisting the efforts of far-sighted statesmen on both sides of the Channel; but it was certainly no small one. King Edward's great popularity in France was especially valuable at this period, from which may be dated the con-

ferring on His Majesty, by popular consent, of the proud title of "Edward the Peacemaker."

Anglo-German relations presented a really difficult problem, and here King Edward gave a fresh illustration of his singular tact and insight. He visited the Kaiser more than once—namely, at Kiel in 1904, at Cronberg in 1906, and again in 1908, and at Wilhelmshöhe in 1907, thereby showing that his relations with his Imperial nephew were not only correct, but cordial. Nevertheless, it could not but be remarked that King Edward paid no visit to the capital of the German Empire. Lisbon, Rome, Paris, Copenhagen, Athens, Christiania, Stockholm, had all been visited in turn; but it was not till 1909 that King Edward and Queen Alexandra were welcomed by the populace at Berlin. It is certain that the visit, which lasted from February 9 to February 12, had improved, like old port, by keeping. Had it been paid some years earlier it might well have been a fiasco; but as it was, nothing could exceed the popular enthusiasm or the delight of the Royal visitors in their welcome. A striking new departure was His Majesty's visit to the Rathaus, the Guildhall of Berlin, where he met some five or six hundred representatives of German municipal life.

The marriage of His Majesty's niece, Princess Ena of Battenberg, to the King of Spain, which was celebrated in 1906, gave great satisfaction to King Edward, and certainly improved our relations with a country whose future may easily emulate its historic past.

As the country began to realise the services which the King was rendering in this manner, his popularity increased with all classes to a singular extent. Queen Victoria had spent long years of her widowhood in deep seclusion, and though towards the end of her long life she did, from a sense of duty, show herself from time to time to her people, still the country was not accustomed at the time of King Edward's accession to having an active, energetic monarch.

For it must be remembered that King Edward also went about a great deal at home as well as abroad. Every year he made it his practice to pay two or three visits in full state to some great centres of industry, besides innumerable other occasions when he showed himself to his people. He went to all the principal race-meetings and the great agricultural shows. Every big exhibition, too, that was held in London could count on his patronage, and at least one visit. Events like the

International Horse Show at Olympia, the Franco-British Exhibition, and the great Motor Car Shows owed their success, in no small degree, to His Majesty's active support.

It is no slight testimony to King Edward's political insight that at a time when the Colonies were not fashionable, and when they were actually regarded as a source of weakness rather than of strength to the Mother Country, he did all that he could—as far as the traditional restrictions of his position would allow—to foster a different view of Britain's relations with her daughter States. Since those days he exerted himself to promote the success of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition; and his interest in the Empire was yet more strikingly demonstrated in the foundation of the Imperial Institute. His Majesty's gracious message to his people beyond the seas further illustrated his interest in his Colonial dominions, as did also his consent to part with his son and his daughter-in-law for many months, that they might inaugurate the Australian Federal Parliament and visit the other important States of the Empire.

CHAPTER XX.

KING EDWARD AND THE SERVICES.

ONLY three days after the irreparable loss of his much-loved mother, King Edward wrote messages to the Navy and the Army, which demonstrated how great was his pride in both the services, and how deeply he had their interests at heart.

On the publication of the official March Navy List—there was no issue for February 1901—it was seen that the words "The King" appeared at the head of the service. This had been done before in lists published by private enterprise, but never before in the list published "by authority." The circumstance that, while in the Army List Queen Victoria appeared as the head of the land forces, a similar course was not taken in the Navy List had always been regarded as curious, especially

considering that the sea service is designated the "Royal" Navy, while the Army is not so described.

Debarred by the tradition of his House from himself entering our first line of defence, King Edward nevertheless—as, indeed, he says in his gracious message—chose the Navy for the early education of both his sons. In other ways he never failed to demonstrate in every possible way his love of the sea, of which indeed he had a pretty wide experience.

King William IV. once said, "There is no place in the world for making an English gentleman like the quarter-deck of an English man-of-war," and his great-nephew, King Edward, evidently took the same view. It was in 1877 that an important step was taken in regard to the education of King Edward's two sons, which had long been the subject of anxious thought and care to both their parents. It had not hitherto been the custom to send princes in the direct line of succession into the Navy, that service being no doubt considered too hazardous. But the strong affection subsisting between Prince Albert Victor and Prince George made their father unwilling to separate them, and so in June 1877 they entered the *Britannia* together as naval cadets. The decision significantly showed

how highly His Majesty appreciated the naval service as a mental and moral training-school.

Turning now to the Army, King Edward on his accession conferred upon the under-mentioned regiments the honour of becoming their colonel-in-chief :—10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars, of which regiment he had been the regimental colonel since the year 1863 ; Grenadier Guards ; Coldstream Guards ; Scots Guards ; and Irish Guards. The 10th Hussars was the regiment in which the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale served.

The connection of His Majesty with the Army had, in accordance with precedent, been extremely close and long continued. Among the earliest recollections of his childhood was the Crimean War, which undoubtedly made a deep and lasting impression on his mind. On attaining the age of eighteen, His Majesty was gazetted a colonel in the Army. Four years later he was promoted to be a general, and in 1875 he was created a field-marshal. The mere catalogue of his colonelcies and honorary colonelcies would be tedious ; but it may be mentioned that he was colonel-in-chief of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards, the Royal Horse Guards, and the Gordon Highlanders. His Majesty was also colonel of a large number of foreign regiments. These

latter, however, were naturally formal distinctions, which in these days are not of military so much as diplomatic significance.

King Edward's military career at the Curragh has been described in an earlier chapter. His mind was also undoubtedly influenced by the companions whom his parents selected to be with him when he set up a separate establishment. Of these, two were soldiers of conspicuous bravery—Major Teesdale, afterwards Sir Christopher Teesdale, who had greatly distinguished himself at Kars; and Major Lindsay, V.C., afterwards Lord Wantage. King Edward's keen interest in all that concerns the art of war was exemplified by his careful survey of the battlefields of the Crimea, and by his visiting, during his tour in India, the places rendered for ever memorable by the Mutiny.

The deep interest which His Majesty took in the Boer war will be in the recollection of everybody. It will be remembered, too, how frequently King Edward inspected battalions ordered to the front, encouraging them with his outspoken admiration.

The services of the Colonial contingents in South Africa made a profound impression on His Majesty's mind. He showed this in the most significant manner when, brushing aside all antiquated War

Office precedents, he not only inspected Strathcona's Horse in the garden of Buckingham Palace and gave them the South African medal in advance before its general issue, but actually presented the regiment with a colour. That such honour should be conferred on a corps of irregulars doubtless shocked military pedants.

CHAPTER XXI.

KING EDWARD AND FREEMASONRY.

AFTER King Edward's accession, His Majesty reluctantly decided that he could not hope to find time to fulfil the duties of the high offices in Masonry to which he had been called as Prince of Wales—namely, Grand Master of English Freemasons and Grand Master of the Mark Degree. At the same time, King Edward was unwilling to cut short his long official connection with Masonry. Accordingly, His Majesty graciously intimated, in a letter read at Grand Lodge on February 15, 1901, that, following the precedent of King George IV., he would, on his retirement from the office of Grand Master, take the title of "Protector of English Freemasons." Similarly, at a Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons held four days later, it was announced that His Majesty would assume the title of "Patron of Freemasons of the Mark Degree."

Undoubtedly, Freemasonry was one of the interests

of King Edward's life. Yet very few foreign princes are Masons; and though the Duke of Kent was one, the Prince Consort always refused to associate himself with the craft. Of course, it must be remembered that British Freemasonry is a very different thing from what the term is supposed to imply on the Continent, where it is associated in the public mind with atheism and even anarchism.

As far back as March 1870, King Edward presided at the anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This was not very long after his initiation, and in his speech he expressed his pride at being so heartily received by the company as a brother Mason, and his determination to follow in the footsteps of his grand-uncles, who were so long connected with the craft. His Majesty continued:—

Much has been said against Freemasonry by those who do not know what it is. People naturally say they do not approve of secret societies; but I maintain that the craft is free from the reproach of being either disloyal or irreligious. . . . I desire to remind you that when, about seventy years ago, it became necessary for the Government of that day to put down secret societies, my relative, the late Duke of Sussex, urged in his place in Parliament that Freemasons' lodges ought to be exempt from such a law, and the force of his appeal was acknowledged. From that time Freemasonry has been devoid of politics, its only object being the pure and Christian one of charity.

In May of the following year, King Edward pre-

sided at the annual festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and announced that Queen Alexandra had consented to become the patroness of the institution.

It is interesting to record, in view of King Edward's present title of Patron of Freemasons of the Mark Degree, that His Majesty, who was already Patron of the Order in Scotland, was installed as Patron of Free and Accepted Masons in Ireland on the occasion of his visit to that country in August 1871. The installation was attended with great ceremony, and in the course of his reply to the address of welcome presented to him, His Majesty said :—

It was a source of considerable satisfaction to me when I was elected a member of the craft, and I think I may, without presumption, point to the different Masonic meetings which, since my initiation, I have fraternally attended. As a proof of the interest I take in all that relates to Freemasonry, I can assure you that it has afforded me great gratification to become the Patron of the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons in Ireland, and that an opportunity has been given me by my visit to Ireland of being installed here to-day.

The Grand Master then clothed King Edward with the collar, apron, and jewel as Patron. The brethren, according to ancient custom, saluted him as Patron of the Order in Ireland, and His Majesty then said :—

I have now to thank you heartily and cordially for your fraternal reception, and for the honour you have done me, and I beg to assure you of the pleasure I feel on having been invited to become the Patron of the Order of Freemasons in Ireland. It is a source of considerable satisfaction to me to know that my visit to this country has afforded this opportunity of meeting you, brethren, in Lodge, and so interchanging these frank and hearty greetings. It is true I have not been a Mason very long. I was initiated, as you perhaps know, in London, a few years ago, after which I visited the Grand Original Lodge of Denmark, and a short time afterwards I had the signal satisfaction of being elected a Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. Last year I had the honour of being elected Patron of the Order in Scotland; and, brethren, though last, not least, comes the special honour you have conferred on me. I thank you for it from the bottom of my heart. I may, I think, refer with some pride to the number of Masonic meetings I have attended in England since my initiation as a proof of my deep attachment to your Order.

I know—we all know—how good and holy a thing Freemasonry is, how excellent are its principles, and how perfect the doctrine it sets forth; but forgive me if I remind you that some of our friends outside are not as well acquainted with its merits as we are ourselves, and that a most mistaken idea prevails in some minds that, because we are a secret society, we meet for political purposes, or have a political bias in what we do. I am delighted, brethren, to have this opportunity of proclaiming what I am satisfied you will agree with me in—that we have, as Masons, no politics; that the great object of our Order is to strengthen the bonds of fraternal affection, and to make us live in pure and Christian love with all men; that though a secret, we are not a political body; and that our Masonic principles and hopes are essential parts of our attachment to the Constitution and loyalty to the Crown.

No doubt the most impressive Masonic ceremony ever attended by King Edward was his installation as Grand Master of English Freemasons in the

Royal Albert Hall on April 28, 1875, to which office he was elected on the resignation of Lord Ripon.

It is recorded that when His Majesty entered the hall the enthusiasm of the brethren was so great that the proper order of the ceremonial was forgotten, and the Grand Master Elect was greeted with extraordinarily vehement but quite irregular plaudits.

In returning thanks after his installation, King Edward delivered a speech, in the course of which he said :—

It is difficult for me to find words adequate to express my deep thanks for the honour which has already been bestowed upon me—an honour which has, as history bears testimony, been bestowed upon several members of my family, my predecessors; and, brethren, it will always be my most sincere and ardent wish to walk in the footsteps of good men who have preceded me, and, with God's help, to fulfil the duties which I have been called upon to occupy to-day. The various duties which I have to perform will frequently, I am afraid, not permit me to attend so much to the duties of the craft as I should desire; but you may be assured that when I have the time I shall do the utmost to maintain this high position, and do my duty by the craft and by you on every possible occasion. Every Englishman knows that the two great watchwords of the craft are Loyalty and Charity. These are their watchwords, and as long as Freemasons do not, as Freemasons, mix themselves up in politics, so long I am sure this high and noble Order will flourish, and will maintain the integrity of our great Empire. I thank you once more, brethren, for your cordial reception of me to-day, and I thank you for having come such immense distances to welcome me on this occasion. I assure you I shall never forget to-day—never!

The last sentence, obviously an impromptu, was uttered with much emphasis and evidently deep feeling.

As a matter of fact, in spite of his numerous other duties, the new Grand Master did find time to attend a considerable number of Masonic functions. Not the least interesting of these was his laying the foundation-stone of Truro Cathedral on May 20, 1880, of which the late Archbishop Benson, then Bishop of Truro, wrote the following vivid description, quoted in that prelate's "Life":—

The ceremonial of the Freemasons, which some regarded with suspicion and dislike, was satisfactory and refreshing from its simple exposition of symbolism as an element in life, quite apart from ecclesiasticism. I had, upon the first mootings of the question by the Prince, taken the opinion of the Rural Deans as representative of the clergy, and their unanimous opinion was that it was even desirable to use an old guild in this way, provided that the Church Service and Order were in no way interfered with. And the Prince, both through Lord Mount Edgcumbe and at Marlborough House himself, said that nothing should be done except in full accord with my own arrangements as Bishop and the usual forms. . . . The dignity and the simplicity and naturalness with which the Prince poured the corn and wine and oil over the stone added much to the ceremony, and the force and clearness with which he delivered the impressive little sermon, ending with an excellent passage of Ezra chosen by Lord Mount Edgcumbe, rang out of a really serious spirit. . . . The colours of the Masons, which look quaint on the individual, looked very soft in the mass.

The most striking moment was when the procession of military and naval authorities and deputy-lieutenants came sweeping in with a great curve, leading the Princess and her boys. She was

received by our tall Mayor in his stately new-furred gown, and me, and taken up to her throne. At the end she was led to the newly-laid stone and seated by it, while a long train of girls brought their purses and laid them before her, after the little Princes had each presented £250 in behalf of Miss Goldsworthy Gurney, who wished thus to memorialise her father's invention of the steam jet. The Prince of Wales was timidly asked whether he would approve of this, and said, "Oh, why not? The boys would stand on their heads if she wished!" The younger of the boys is a bright-coloured, cheery lad; but the elder, on whom so much may depend, is pale, long-faced, and I can't help thinking, *for a child*, like Charles I.—it is a very feeling face. At night when they were sent to bed between twelve and one, having been allowed to sit up, as a special privilege, to the ball, the Princess said to me as they pleaded for a little longer, "I do wish to keep them children as long as I can, and they do so want to be men all at once." May she prevail!

The mallet which was used by His Majesty on this occasion was the one with which King Charles II. laid the foundation stone of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was presented to the old Lodge of St. Paul by Sir Christopher Wren, who was a member.

King Edward, who was of course then Duke of Cornwall, was also present at the consecration of Truro Cathedral on November 3, 1887, and Archbishop Benson records an instance of His Majesty's religious feeling:—

There was a nice incident in the consecration. Just as the Bishop was signing the sentence of consecration, Bishop of Salisbury whispered to me, "Shouldn't the Prince of Wales be asked to sign it?" I sent him to Bishop of Truro to suggest it, who sent him on to the Prince's dais. The Prince assented, but instead of waiting for the parchment to be brought up, instantly

came down from his place and went up the altar steps and signed it there on the little table set in front of the altar—a real little bit of reverence.

Many curious incidents have occurred in connection with King Edward's interest in Freemasonry. At one dinner at which the King of Sweden was present, the list of subscriptions announced amounted to the enormous sum of £51,000, probably the largest amount ever raised at a festival dinner in the history of the world.

On two occasions, King Edward presided as Grand Master of English Freemasons over remarkable assemblies in the Royal Albert Hall. The first was in celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, when the tickets for admission produced £6,000, a sum which was divided among the three great Masonic charities. Very similar was the Diamond Jubilee assembly of Freemasons, at which eight thousand members were present.

CHAPTER XXII.

KING EDWARD AS A PHILANTHROPIST.

ONE of the first occasions on which King Edward and Queen Alexandra appeared in support of a charitable institution was on June 24, 1863, when their Majesties opened the new buildings of the British Orphan Asylum at Slough. From that day forward both the King and Queen unceasingly demonstrated their keen personal interest in every genuine form of charitable endeavour. It would be impossible to estimate the total sum of human misery and suffering which has been relieved as the direct result, not only of their Majesties' own exertions, but also of the powerful example which they have consistently set before the wealthy and leisured classes. The mere catalogue of the charitable meetings and dinners at which King Edward has presided would occupy many pages of this book.

But His Majesty never contented himself, as he might so easily have done, with allowing his own subscription and the fact of his patronage to open the purse-strings of the charitable public. The word "genuine" has been used above advisedly. King Edward had no sort of admiration for careless, slovenly charity. Long ago he realised that to give money is not enough, but that it is a sacred duty to see that the money is expended to the best advantage, and really reaches the persons for whom it is intended. Hence, His Majesty was from the first a strong supporter of the old Mendicity Society, and continued to give his countenance to the Charity Organisation Society, which, in return, was of the greatest service to him.

It was not so much the actual sums subscribed by His Majesty to a particular charity which were valued—though the aggregate amount which he gave away represents a very large sum—but it was the guarantee afforded by the mere fact that he subscribed at all. Great precautions are taken to prevent a Royal subscription from being given to a fraudulent or unworthy object, and that was no doubt why a comparatively small sum, perhaps only £50 or £100, from King Edward stimulated

the generosity of the public to the extent of many thousands.

Charitable work, however, as those who have engaged in it know only too well, is only a palliative. By his active interest in the problem of the housing of the poor, King Edward endeavoured to strike at one of the chief causes of vice and crime. On various occasions His Majesty made pointed observations regarding the provision of decent cottages for agricultural labourers, and there can be no doubt that the example he set on his Sandringham estate was of the greatest value. His Majesty took the earliest opportunity after his accession, in his reply to the address presented by the London County Council, of emphasising his interest in the housing of urban populations also.

Twice in his life His Majesty has realised in his own person the incalculable benefits of skilled medical and surgical treatment and trained nursing. Though King Edward's active support of hospitals dated from an earlier time in his life, these experiences doubtless strengthened his keen desire to render the benefits which he had himself enjoyed available for the poorest classes of the community. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, with its system of inspection of the various institutions, is an

abiding monument to His Majesty's practical good sense as well as to his warm heart.

Perhaps the most often quoted observation ever uttered by King Edward is his famous saying about preventible diseases: "If preventible, why not prevented?" His Majesty was an eager supporter of every properly authorised medical discovery which promised to be of value to humanity in the alleviation of disease. He had long been deeply impressed with the ravages of consumption and other forms of tuberculosis, and when an association for the prevention of this terrible scourge was established, he not only became its president, but took an active part in its deliberations. Until comparatively lately, consumption was regarded as practically incurable, and it says much for His Majesty's clear-headedness and insight that he unhesitatingly placed himself at the head of the crusade against the disease. The historian of the future will reckon this as not the least of the services he has rendered to his people.

As may be imagined from the diversity of his interests, King Edward's correspondence rivalled that of Queen Victoria, and His Majesty was always eager to acknowledge the debt he owed to his private secretary, Lord Knollys. The correspondence

was reduced by the private secretary to three distinct sections—the private letters, the business letters, and the miscellaneous letters. Among the latter were those written by lunatics, begging-letter writers, and so on. The private letters were sent up to King Edward unopened, the others were read all through by Lord Knollys, and again sub-divided, the larger section to be replied to in a formal and official way, the others to be submitted to His Majesty before they were dealt with.

Some of His Majesty's correspondents evidently had a touching belief in his power of righting wrong. They implored him to take up their cause when they were injured, and no *bona fide* epistle was ever sent to King Edward without being answered, often with marvellous celerity, and ever with the greatest courtesy and kindness.

King Edward was one of the first subscribers to the National Telephone Company; and he was said to spend over £1,000 a year in telegrams alone—for the popular idea that Royalty's letters are franked, and that parcels sent by them are forwarded free of cost, is a delusion.

King Edward's exertions in the cause of public philanthropy were so great and widespread that it might be supposed that he would have no time

for private acts of benevolence. But this was by no means the case, and an example which is not generally known may be given here. An officer of the Grenadier Guards, a regiment in which His Majesty was particularly interested, fell into serious money troubles, and had to leave the service, ultimately becoming almost destitute. The Prince, as he then was, heard of the case, and soon the poor ex-officer received a letter from a firm of solicitors asking him to call on them. He did so, and was given, to his amazement, a considerable sum of money, together with the offer of a good appointment abroad. The Prince's name was not disclosed, by His Royal Highness's express command, but a plausible story was told of an old comrade who wished thus anonymously to recompense former acts of kindness.

Better known, perhaps, is the story of a large silver inkstand, which Queen Alexandra particularly values. It bears the inscription: "To the Prince of Wales. From one who saw him conduct a blind beggar across the street. In memory of a kind and Christian action." The incident occurred in Pall Mall at a busy time of the day, and the beggar, with his dog, was vainly trying to cross in safety when King Edward, who chanced to be passing at the

moment, took the poor fellow by the arm and guided him to the other side. A few days afterwards the inkstand arrived at Marlborough House, with no card or letter, or other clue to the donor's identity, which, indeed, was never revealed.

A
 account of King Edward as a sportsman begins approximately enough with the year of 1897, though this is by no means the only season with which his Majesty identified himself. At any rate during his later years as Prince of Wales he was chiefly associated in the public mind with racing, and his colours—purple, gold, and scarlet sleeves and black velvet top with gold fringe—were familiar at all the principal meetings. After his accession His Majesty loaned his horse to the Duke of Devonshire for the season of 1907, but following the example of several of his predecessors he resumed his active connection with the Turf later on.

King Edward ran his first horse on March 27, 1897, at a meeting of the 10th Hussars. It was not until July 1897 that Queen Alexandra was present at Newmarket; but unfortunately on that occasion the King's horse Alop, a pure bred Arab, was

CHAPTER XXIII.

KING EDWARD AS A SPORTSMAN.

AN account of King Edward as a sportsman begins, appropriately enough, with the sport of kings, though this is by no means the only pastime with which His Majesty identified himself. Still, at any rate during his later years as Prince of Wales, he was chiefly associated in the public mind with racing, and his colours—purple, gold band, scarlet sleeves, and black velvet cap with gold fringe—were familiar at all the principal meetings. After his accession His Majesty leased his horses to the Duke of Devonshire for the season of 1901; but, following the example of several of his predecessors, he resumed his active connection with the Turf later on.

King Edward ran his first horse on March 31, 1871, at a meeting of the 10th Hussars. It was not until July 1877 that Queen Alexandra was present at Newmarket; but unfortunately on that occasion the King's horse Alep, a pure bred Arab, was

beaten, although it started favourite. In the same year, however, His Majesty scored his first win, under Jockey Club rules, when Counterpane, ridden by Fred Archer, won a plate. In 1880, His Majesty's Leonidas won the Military Hunt Steeplechase at Aldershot. In 1882 the King won the Household Brigade Cup at Sandown with Fair Play.

In subsequent years His Majesty was much more successful. In 1890, King Edward appointed Mr. John Porter as his trainer, and the famous mare, Perdita II., was bought for £900—a remarkably good investment in view of the exploits of her progeny. Lord Marcus Beresford was entrusted with the general control of King Edward's racing-stable, and in 1892 the horses were removed from Kingsclere to Egerton House, Newmarket. After Mr. Porter's death, Richard Marsh was appointed trainer. The effect of these changes is clearly shown in the following table, which gives His Majesty's winnings under Jockey Club rules down to the end of 1908 :—

Year.	£	Year.	£
1886	298	1892	190
1887	—	1893	372
1888	—	1894	3,499
1889	204	1895	8,281
1890	694	1896	26,819
1891	4,148	1897	15,170

Year.	£	Year.	£
1898	6,560	1905	900
1899	2,189	1906	2,788
1900	29,585	1907	2,944
1901	—	1908	5,490 15s.
1902	1,514		
1903	3,105	Total .	<u>£116,653 15s.</u>
1904	1,903		

King Edward altogether won the Derby three times; the St. Leger, the Eclipse Stakes, and the Two Thousand Guineas, twice; and the One Thousand Guineas, the Ascot Cup, the Newmarket Stakes, the Coventry Stakes, the Ascot Gold Vase, the Goodwood Cup, the Manchester Cup, the Jockey Club Stakes, and the Grand National, once.

What memories are evoked by the mere names of Persimmon, Ambush II., Diamond Jubilee, Minoru, Florizel II., and many another! Of these, perhaps the greatest horse was Persimmon, who won for King Edward his first Derby in 1896, and whose parents, like those of Diamond Jubilee, the winner of the Derby in 1900, were St. Simon and Perdita II. It is rare for a mare to produce two Derby winners, but that they should be by the same sire is probably a record. King Edward's first Derby was only the fourth time that the race has been won by a Royal owner, and the enthusiasm all over the country was enormous; as, indeed, was the case

also in 1900, and still more, perhaps, in 1909, when Minoru carried the Royal colours to victory. This latter was the first occasion on which a reigning monarch has won the Derby.

King Edward was a very good judge of a horse. When at Newmarket he made it a point to watch the early morning gallops, and at one time he was very fond of attending sales. His Majesty also gave a great impetus to horse-breeding in the United Kingdom. Many years ago he started a thoroughbred stud, a half-bred stud, and a shire-horse stud—works of real public utility, which can only be undertaken, be it remembered, by those who have wealth and leisure, combined with intelligence and a real desire to forward the interests of the British farmer.

The Derby Day dinner was certainly one of the most important functions held at Marlborough House during the year, and King Edward continued it at Buckingham Palace after his accession. Something like fifty invitations were sent out, and the guests, all men, were expected to wear evening dress, not uniform. The great silver dinner-service ordered by King Edward on his marriage, which cost some £20,000, was always used on this occasion, and on the side-buffet were to be seen His

Majesty's racing cups, hunting trophies, and gold and silver salvers, for everything in the strong rooms associated with sport was brought out.

From the sport of kings we pass by a natural transition to the royal and ancient game of golf. It is well known that golf was the favourite pastime of some of the Stuart kings of Scotland, and Mary Queen of Scots, her son James I. of England, Charles I., and James II. all played. But from the death of James II. to the accession of Edward VII. none of our sovereigns were themselves golfers, though William IV. and the lamented Queen Victoria gave their patronage to the game.

King Edward lived to see the game spread far beyond the limits of Scotland, until it bade fair to oust cricket as the national game. His Majesty learnt to play on the Musselburgh Links in 1859, when he was pursuing his scientific studies in Edinburgh. Hugh Philip made the King's clubs, and His Majesty's driver and baffle spoon, as well as a feather ball used by him, are still preserved. In later years His Majesty played at Cromer, and also on the private course at Sandringham. King Edward always took the greatest interest in the golfing performances of his family and of his friends, not-

ably in those of the Grand Duke Michael, at Cannes and Biarritz.

In the later years of his life, at any rate, King Edward found that croquet suited him best. His father, the late Prince Consort, was an extremely skilful player, but the King did not take up the game very much until after his accession.

King Edward also lived to see the extraordinary development of cricket, and its promotion to the rank of the typically national game which Englishmen take with them to the ends of the earth. We may be sure that the indirect political influence of the great contests between England and Australia, for example, and of the tours of Indian, South African, and West Indian teams did not escape his quick intelligence. Certainly His Majesty always supported cricket, though he never became so keen a player as his nephew, the late Prince Christian Victor of Slesvig-Holstein.

King Edward played at Oxford, and occasionally for I. Zingari. In 1866, at the Park House, Sandringham, His Majesty played against the Gentlemen of Norfolk for the Sandringham household. He frequently visited Lords to see the Eton and Harrow matches, and in 1899 he went there with the then Duke of Cornwall and York when the M.C.C., of

which club His Majesty was patron, played the Australians. He also saw the Australians play at Sheffield Park. Kennington Oval being on the London estate of the Duchy of Cornwall, King Edward, when he was Prince of Wales, was ground landlord, and allowed the Surrey Club the use of the ground at a nominal rental.

King Edward was for many years patron of both the Rugby Union and the Football Association, and after his accession he was approached by both bodies with a view to his graciously continuing to grant them his patronage. The game under neither code was played much until His Majesty had reached middle life, but he showed his interest in the popular winter pastime by visiting the Oval in March 1886, on the first occasion of a charity festival organised by the Rugby Union and Football Association.

There can be no doubt that King Edward owed his remarkable bodily vigour and healthy appearance to his love of all outdoor sports, for he was never so content as when enjoying a long day's tramp over the stubble at Sandringham, or when deer-stalking in a soft Highland mist. His Majesty's life as a sportsman began early. When he was quite a child he used to accompany Prince Albert

on deer-stalking expeditions round Balmoral ; somewhat later he hunted with the harriers ; and when he was fifteen he could claim to be the best shot in his family.

Although King Edward was a plucky and fearless rider from early childhood, he was not so fond of hunting as of some other sports. When an undergraduate at Christ Church, he constantly hunted with Lord Macclesfield's pack, and was then considered a very hard rider ; and it need scarcely be said that the meets which took place at Sandringham were the most popular in Norfolk, and gave both King Edward and Queen Alexandra many opportunities of showing gracious and kindly hospitality, both to their wealthy and to their humble neighbours. His Majesty was always a firm friend to the hunting of the fox. In 1888 the members of the West Norfolk Hunt presented to King Edward and Queen Alexandra a beautiful silver model of a fox in full gallop as a memorial of their Majesties' silver wedding, and in returning thanks His Majesty said :—

I can assure you that no present which has been offered for our acceptance has been received by us with more pleasure than the one which you have given us to-day—a model of the wily animal that we are all so fond of following. Norfolk has always been considered to be a shooting county ; that may be so

to a great extent, but I feel convinced that the hunting is quite as popular, and I sincerely hope that it will long remain so. There may be difficulties in preserving foxes, but I feel sure that where there's a will there's a way. For twenty-five years we have enjoyed hunting with the West Norfolk Hunt, both the Princess and myself; and our children have been brought up to follow that Hunt. I sincerely hope that for many long years we may be able to continue to do so.

Before King Edward had been at Sandringham six months he made it quite clear that his country home should be in every sense a good sporting estate, and it was one of his chief pleasures to entertain parties of keen sportsmen each autumn in Norfolk.

Over ten thousand pheasants were annually reared at Sandringham, and the lake near Sandringham afforded wild duck, teal, and widgeon shooting.

King Edward had the largest game-room in the United Kingdom. It holds between six and seven thousand head, and was built not very long after His Majesty bought the estate. After each day's sport the game was spread for inspection, and a careful record made of the numbers that had fallen to each gun. It was in the game-room that the game was packed after a big *battue* to be sent off in hampers to hospitals and to friends. It need hardly be said that none of the game was ever sold. A good deal was kept for the use of the house, and a share was also given to the tenants, to the *em-*

ployees on the estate, and to London tradesmen connected with the Royal household, as well as to various hospitals.

King Edward's shooting-parties rarely numbered more than ten guns, each of whom was assigned his place in the shoot by his Royal host himself. All the beaters at Sandringham wore a very becoming uniform, composed of a Royal blue blouse, low crowned hat, and long brown gaiters. Each bore on his left arm a number by which he might be readily identified, and after each day's shooting every one of the beaters was allowed to take home a hare and a pheasant.

King Edward was not often seen going north for the opening weeks of the grouse season. Still, in the early years of his married life, he and Queen Alexandra often entertained shooting-parties at Birkhall.

Like his father, the late Prince Consort, King Edward was a keen deer-stalker, and when he was staying at Balmoral most of his time was entirely devoted to this sport; in fact, deer-stalking is what first brought him into close connection with his son-in-law, the Duke of Fife. King Edward was well known to prefer "stalking" to driving, but of late years he took an active part in the drives organised at Mar.

It is not generally known that King Edward was an enthusiastic disciple of Izaak Walton, and he even had some rainbow trout stocked in the lake at Buckingham Palace. But, on the whole, shooting remained his favourite sport.

Whether shooting, or deer-stalking, or yachting, or whatever sport he was engaged in at the time, King Edward arrogated to himself no special privileges, but took the same risks and inconveniences as the rest of the party. It is an interesting fact that he was more than once in danger of his life. When he was quite a little boy he narrowly escaped being shot by Canning at a great shoot in Windsor Park. The ball just missed the then Prince of Wales and struck a member of the suite. It is said that Canning swooned away, fearing that he had killed the Prince.

Again, many years later—indeed, after his accession—King Edward had a narrow escape on board Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht *Shamrock II*. There came a sudden squall, and a sail with spars and rigging came crashing down on the deck so near to the King's head that his escape seemed miraculous.

On yet another occasion he was out with the Belvoir, and a stout farmer unexpectedly came to grief at a big fence. King Edward saw in a second

that it was too late to pull up, and, marvellous to relate, he cleared both the fence and the prostrate farmer as well !

King Edward was extremely fortunate as a yachtsman, and probably one of the events to which he most looked forward each year was the regatta at Cowes. King Edward first won the Queen's Cup, annually presented to the Royal Yacht Squadron, at Cowes in 1877, with his schooner *Hildegarde*, of 198 tons. He won the Cup again in 1880 with the *Formosa* cutter, of 103 tons ; and again in 1895 and 1897 with the famous cutter *Britannia*, of 151 tons.

The Royal Yacht Squadron, as is well known, was founded as "The Yacht Club" so far back as 1815. It early enjoyed the patronage of Royalty, among the past and present members being numbered the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV.), the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.), Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, the Tsar Nicholas I., Napoleon III., the German Emperor, and Prince Henry of Prussia. King Edward became commodore in 1882 on the death of Lord Wilton, and he was commodore of nine other Royal yacht clubs, as well as President of the Yacht Racing Association.

His Majesty generally took the chair at the annual

dinner of the Squadron held at the old castle at West Cowes, built as a fort by Henry VIII., which became the headquarters of the Club in 1858. This festivity is the great event of the year for all well-known yachtsmen. There is an interesting display of plate, including the Queen's Cup, the Nelson Vase, and the beautiful model of the *Speranza*, which once belonged to Lord Conyngham. His Majesty presented a few years ago twenty-one cannon to the club-house at Cowes. They were taken by him from the *Royal Adelaide*, the toy warship placed by William IV. to guard the artificial ocean of Virginia Water. Now they are used for firing salutes.

It need hardly be said that King Edward was the owner of many splendid prizes won at Cowes and elsewhere. Both His Majesty and Queen Alexandra were extremely fond of the sea, and he early made himself acquainted with the less technical side of navigation.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE ACCESSION AND CORONATION.

ON January 22, 1901, Queen Victoria passed peacefully away, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Then every one turned in their grief to His Majesty King Edward VII. Hardly for a moment could he be simply the devoted son weeping by the deathbed of his beloved and venerated mother. He was now the ruler of a great Empire, and bravely did His Majesty meet what must have seemed the almost impertinent intrusion of State business and State ceremonial. Yet it had to be done, and it may even be that, as has been the experience of humbler mortals, the anguish of King Edward's great personal bereavement was to some extent mitigated by the urgent necessities of action that were laid upon him. On the following day, King Edward held his first Council at St. James's Palace, when His Majesty made a truly kingly speech, in the course of which he said :—

In undertaking the heavy load which now devolves upon Me, I am fully determined to be a Constitutional Sovereign in the strictest sense of the word, and, as long as there is breath in My body, to work for the good and amelioration of My people.

I have resolved to be known by the name of Edward, which has been borne by six of My ancestors. In doing so I do not undervalue the name of Albert, which I inherit from My ever to be lamented, great, and wise Father, who by universal consent is, I think, deservedly known by the name of Albert the Good, and I desire that his name should stand alone.

The marvellous and unprecedented outburst of sorrow for her late Majesty, which showed that not only the British Empire but the whole of the civilised world shared in King Edward's grief, undoubtedly brought His Majesty some consolation, which was increased by the decision of the German Emperor, who had been joined by the Crown Prince, to remain for the funeral.

King Edward's anxieties during the trying period which followed the death of his beloved mother were much increased by the state of health of his only surviving son. The Duke of Cornwall and York became very ill with German measles, and it was absolutely impossible for him to attend the funeral of his venerated grandmother.

The most notable event of the first year of King Edward's reign was the Imperial tour of the then Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. It must have cost King Edward a great deal thus to part

for some nine months with his much-loved only surviving son ; but here, as always, His Majesty sacrificed his personal feelings to his sense of public duty.

The London season of 1901 was naturally a quiet one, owing to the mourning for Queen Victoria and the continuance of the war in South Africa, and practically the only public function in which King Edward took part was connected with the war. Early in August, His Majesty sustained a terrible blow in the death of the Empress Frederick, who was perhaps his favourite sister. He could not arrive in time to be at the deathbed, but he was present with Queen Alexandra at the solemn funeral rites. Afterwards, King Edward took a three weeks' cure at Homburg, and then went on to Denmark, where he met the Tsar and other members of the Russian Imperial family. In the autumn King Edward and Queen Alexandra paid their first visit to Balmoral since the accession. King Edward went out deer-stalking, bringing down in one day four fine stags.

The Coronation year, 1902, was marked by the opening of Parliament in person by King Edward. The mourning for Queen Victoria ended, and what seemed likely to prove a most brilliant season was inaugurated by the King's first *levée*.

In March their Majesties held the first Court of their reign in the evening—a change from Queen Victoria's afternoon drawing-rooms—which was much to the satisfaction of society in general. The coming Coronation was in everybody's thoughts. King Edward was anxious that no class of his subjects should be left out of the festivities, and amongst other examples of his kingly thoughtfulness he expended no less than £30,000 in entertaining some half million of the London poor at dinner.

The termination of the South African War, in securing which King Edward was generally believed to have played a notable part, served to enhance if possible His Majesty's popularity; it also gave a great impetus to the preparations for the Coronation, which was fixed for June 26. On the 14th, King Edward went down to Aldershot to hold a review; the day was wet and cold, and in the evening it was known that His Majesty was suffering from indisposition. On the 16th it was officially announced that the King could not hold a review owing to an attack of lumbago caused by a chill.

The King drove to Windsor, but he did not attend Ascot, keeping indoors most of the week. On the 23rd, King Edward and Queen Alexandra arrived in London. His Majesty wore an overcoat, though

the day was hot, and looked very pale. The fact is that he was seriously ill, but with characteristic courage he was making a valiant effort not to disappoint his subjects. In fact, it was not until June 24 that he gave up the struggle and consented to the announcement that the Coronation must be postponed. Every one will have those days fresh in mind : how the keen edge of joyful anticipation was suddenly turned into a national fever of anxiety. It is said that King Edward's *cri de cœur* was, "Will my people ever forgive me?" But it was not a question of forgiveness: the whole nation troubled no more about the Coronation—their one thought and their one prayer was that King Edward's life might be spared. His Majesty's disease was diagnosed to be perityphlitis, and Sir Frederick Treves performed a successful operation.

The Coronation honours list was announced just as though the Coronation had taken place; its most remarkable feature was the creation of two new Orders: the Order of Merit and the Imperial Service Order. His Majesty continued to make good progress, and the resignation of Lord Salisbury, who was succeeded by Mr. Balfour as Prime Minister, took place in July. King Edward enjoyed a cruise in the Solent, and his progress was so rapid that

the Coronation actually took place on Saturday, August 9.

Seldom can the ancient walls of Westminster Abbey have looked down upon a more august spectacle, which it is not necessary here to describe in detail. The vestments worn by His Majesty were full of the deepest historical and symbolical interest, and the service itself, with the solemn anointing, could not have been more impressive. The venerable Archbishop Temple performed the actual crowning, King Edward, with characteristic thoughtfulness, assisting the aged prelate's trembling hands. Queen Alexandra was crowned by the then Archbishop of York, Dr. Maclagan.

On the Coronation Day, King Edward wrote to the Prime Minister expressing his wish to bestow Osborne House and grounds as a gift to the nation. It was accordingly converted into a convalescent home for naval and military officers. His Majesty devoted his Coronation gift of £115,000, subscribed for by all classes of his subjects, to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

CHAPTER XXV.

KING EDWARD'S REIGN.

THE year 1903 was notable for King Edward's visits in April to Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malta, Naples, Rome, and Paris. The ancient alliance between Britain and Portugal was enthusiastically recalled at His Majesty's meeting with the then King. In Rome the enthusiasm of the populace was extraordinary, and the visit undoubtedly did much to strengthen Anglo-Italian friendship. The British Sovereign went on to Paris, where his reception was such as to remove the last traces of bitterness evoked by the incident of Fashoda.

In July, President Loubet returned our Sovereign's visit, and was magnificently entertained at St. James's Palace. On his departure he sent King Edward a message expressing a desire for a lasting *rapprochement* between the two countries. Similarly, in November, the King and Queen of Italy returned the Royal visit, and the most cordial toasts were exchanged.

In May, King Edward and Queen Alexandra paid a State visit to Scotland, holding a *levée* and a drawing-room in Holyrood Palace, and this was followed by a State visit to Ireland in July, which was very happily timed to follow the passage of the Wyndham Land Act.

The Dublin Corporation by a narrow majority refused to present an address, but there could be no doubt about the heartiness of the popular reception accorded to their Majesties.

As soon as they arrived at Kingstown, King Edward, with his usual tact, paid a tribute to Pope Leo XIII., whose death had just occurred, and whom he had visited when in Rome in the preceding April. It was also regarded as significant that Archbishop Walsh attended King Edward's *levée*. Moreover, their Majesties visited Maynooth, the college where most of the Irish priests are educated, and there King Edward referred in sympathetic terms to the strength and enrichment contributed by the special gifts of Irishmen to the life of the nation and Empire. Their Majesties also visited Ulster, and yachted all round Ireland. On the wild west coast they frequently landed and made excursions by motor car, seeing how the poorest of the Irish peasantry live.

In an address on leaving Ireland, King Edward expressed the pleasure which he and the Queen had derived from the tokens of loyalty and affection which they had everywhere encountered :—

For a country so attractive and a people so gifted we cherish the warmest regard, and it is with supreme satisfaction that I have during our stay so often heard the hope expressed that a brighter day is dawning upon Ireland.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra, with Princess Victoria, paid another visit to Ireland in April 1904. It was much less formal than that of the year before, and the only public function was the laying of the first stone of the Dublin Royal College of Science. Their Majesties attended Punchestown and Leopardstown Races, and were entertained by Lord and Lady Ormonde at Kilkenny Castle, and by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Lismore Castle.

It could not fail to be the subject of comment that though King Edward had visited a number of other foreign capitals, he had not so far paid a State visit to Berlin, or indeed to any German city. No doubt His Majesty was restrained by the unsatisfactory state of Anglo-German relations, which accordingly he set himself to improve by every judicious means in his power

To that end, King Edward paid a visit in June

1904 to Kiel, where he was welcomed by the German Emperor on board the *Hohenzollern*, and very cordial toasts were exchanged, while the British and German bluejackets fraternised. King Edward proceeded to Hamburg, where he had a hearty reception, and lunched with the burgomaster and senators. Returning to Kiel, he was entertained at dinner by Prince Henry of Prussia, on which occasion the German Emperor paid a special tribute of admiration to the British Navy. King Edward also gave a cup for a yacht race. Although this visit to Germany cannot be regarded as political in character, it was closely followed by the conclusion of the Anglo-German treaty of arbitration, modelled on that already concluded with France. During the same year His Majesty was invited to be godfather to the infant Tsarevitch.

1905 was not a specially eventful year, but it was marked by a steady continuance of King Edward's policy of fostering good relations with foreign Powers.

King Edward's customary spring tour took him first to Marseilles to join Queen Alexandra. On the journey thither he had the pleasure of meeting President Loubet, with whom he had a long conversation. Their Majesties cruised in the Mediterranean, visiting Algiers and Sardinia. On the re-

turn journey, King Edward again saw President Loubet in Paris.

Here it may be appropriately recorded that in the following August there took place the historic visit of the French fleet under Admiral Caillard, in return for the visit of the British fleet to Brest in July. King Edward entertained the French officers on board his yacht at Cowes, and the next day reviewed the combined British and French squadrons at Portsmouth. Admiral Caillard and his officers were subsequently entertained at a luncheon in Westminster Hall by members of both Houses of Parliament, whereby a most memorable precedent was created.

The birthday honours list issued in November included the announcement that His Majesty's eldest daughter, the Duchess of Fife, would henceforth bear the style and title of Princess Royal, and her daughters the style of Highness and also that of Princess.

King Edward had also the satisfaction that same year of seeing his youngest daughter, Princess Maud (Princess Charles of Denmark), become a Queen—for Norway effected its separation from Sweden, and the Storthing unanimously elected Prince Charles of Denmark to the throne. He assumed

the title of Haakon VII., and with his Consort and their little son, Prince Olaf, made his entry into Christiania amid the wildest popular enthusiasm.

King Edward performed more public functions this year than usual, including the opening of Sheffield University buildings; of a new dock of the Manchester Ship Canal; and of the new streets of Kingsway and Aldwych in London; a review of the Scottish Volunteers; and the laying of the foundation stone of the new Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The year 1906 was notable for the great Liberal and Labour victory at the polls and the confirmation of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry in power. King Edward, needless to say, fulfilled both in the letter and in the spirit his functions as a Constitutional Sovereign, and the Government could always count on his firm support and his sagacious advice. Naturally, His Majesty took particular interest in the various schemes that were mooted for placing our military organisation on a sound footing. Mr. Haldane, probably the ablest intellect in the Cabinet, had been entrusted with the seals of the War Office, and in developing his great scheme for a Territorial Army enjoyed the constant support and countenance of his Sovereign.

Our relations with France, already placed on so satisfactory a footing, were still further improved by King Edward's visit to Paris on his way to Biarritz, in March. Although the visit was strictly speaking *incognito*, His Majesty called at the Elysée, and made the acquaintance of the new President, M. Fallières. On his way back to England, King Edward was entertained in Paris by the President, and the toasts exchanged were particularly cordial.

Later on, in June, King Edward and Queen Alexandra received at Windsor a large party of representatives of French universities who were visiting London as the guests of the University of London. King Edward also received in May a number of representatives of German municipalities who were visiting England; and in August, King Edward met the German Emperor at Cronberg and Friedrichshof, where they were the guests of Prince and Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse.

This year the monarch to be entertained in this country was King Edward's and Queen Alexandra's own son-in-law, the King of Norway, who with his Consort and little Prince Olaf arrived on November 12. Their Norwegian Majesties were, in accordance with custom, entertained at the Guildhall,

and King Haakon received the freedom of the City of London.

King Edward also had the satisfaction of welcoming home again the Prince and Princess of Wales on their return from their prolonged tour in India.

At home the most notable functions performed by King Edward were his opening of the sanatorium for consumption at Midhurst, which bears his name ; of a new high-level bridge over the Tyne at Newcastle ; and of the new Marischal College, Aberdeen.

The year 1906 was also notable for the marriage of King Edward's niece, Princess Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg, to King Alphonso of Spain, and the event was generally felt to be of assistance to King Edward's policy of Continental *ententes*.

In the spring of 1907, King Edward and Queen Alexandra took their now customary cruise in the Mediterranean. They were warmly greeted by the King of Spain and his mother at Carthagen. King Edward also twice met and conversed with the King of Italy, first at Gaeta and again on his way home at a small station near Rome. In August, King Edward paid important visits to the German Emperor at Wilhelmshöhe, and to the Emperor Francis Joseph at Ischl.

The monarch who was entertained in England this year was the new King of Denmark, Queen Alexandra's brother, who brought his Consort.

King Edward's birthday in November was rendered memorable by the presentation to him of the Cullinan Diamond "as a token of the loyalty and attachment of the people of the Transvaal to His Majesty's person and throne." This magnificent jewel, probably the largest diamond in its uncut state ever known, was afterwards divided into two enormous gems, which were set so that they might be worn in the Imperial crown, or separately by Queen Alexandra. The Lord Mayor's Show this year very happily represented the seven Edwards of England—the seventh driving in a car emblematic of "The Harvest of the Peacemakers."

The autumn was memorable for a State visit to Windsor paid by the Emperor William, in return for King Edward's visit to Kiel. His Imperial Majesty and the Empress were heartily acclaimed by the populace. They were entertained at the customary luncheon at the Guildhall, and the Emperor received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from Oxford. The Emperor remained for some time longer in England after the State visit had concluded, staying at Highcliffe Castle, near

Bournemouth, the seat of Colonel Stuart-Wortley. The visit undoubtedly improved Anglo-German relations, though the effect was perhaps a little modified by the new German Navy Bill.

King Edward's most important home ceremony this year was the reception of the Colonial Premiers who had come over for the Colonial Conference. His Majesty also opened the new Sessions House for the Central Criminal Court, the Union Jack Club, the Dublin Exhibition, and the Alexandra Dock at Cardiff. At Cardiff, King Edward announced his intention of establishing a decoration, the Edward Medal, for the saving of life in mines and quarries.

The year 1908 was marked by further important visits to foreign monarchs. In the spring, King Edward and Queen Alexandra visited the King and Queen of Denmark, the King and Queen of Sweden, and the King and Queen of Norway.

The horrible murder of the King of Portugal and the Crown Prince early in the year shocked the civilised world. King Edward and Queen Alexandra and the Prince and Princess of Wales attended both a requiem mass at St. James's, Spanish Place, and a memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

In June, His Majesty, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, met the Tsar and other members of

the Russian Imperial family at Reval. It was the first official visit ever paid to Russia by any British sovereign, and it undoubtedly did immense service in promoting an Anglo-Russian understanding. Unfortunately, the visit was debated in the Commons, and two Labour members and one Liberal member were omitted from the list of invitations to the King's garden party—in consequence, it is understood, of their remarks about the Russian Emperor. It is significant that King Edward gave no garden party at all in the following year (1909).

In August, King Edward visited the German Emperor at Cronberg, and the Emperor Francis Joseph at Ischl on the following day.

King Edward in the course of this year opened the University buildings at Leeds and the Royal Edward Dock at Avonmouth.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman resigned the Premiership in April, and King Edward, who was then at Biarritz, sent for Mr. Asquith to come out to him there. For this His Majesty was criticised in the Press; but as a matter of fact there was little or no practical inconvenience in the formation of the new Ministry on French soil, while it is certain that His Majesty's health would have been im-

perilled by a too early return to the rigours of an English spring.

This year the King and Queen of Sweden paid a State visit to England, and they were followed by the King and Queen of Norway, whose visit, however, was private and domestic in character.

CHAPTER XXVI.

CONCLUSION OF THE REIGN.

THE year 1909 was signalised by King Edward's return visit to the German Emperor, which took place in February. The relations between the two countries were at that time of such a nature that something might easily have gone wrong, with unfortunate, and possibly even deplorable, consequences. But it is not too much to say that the Berlin visit was a success from start to finish. It was very generally supposed that the attitude of the Germans would be polite but reserved ; yet even old Berliners were astonished at the heartfelt enthusiasm with which King Edward and Queen Alexandra were greeted.

Needless to say that the German Emperor did all in his power to make the visit a success. He took personal trouble to make the suites of apartments assigned to his Royal guests as homelike as possible. Family portraits of the most interesting kind were hung in the beautiful rooms, and the

most interesting books by British authors were provided.

Moreover, the programme of the ceremonies, while full of interest, was not made longer than the Royal guests could accomplish in comfort. The beauty and grace of Queen Alexandra created a positive sensation in Berlin ; and on the night of the great State banquet one of the Emperor's sons gallantly declared that Her Majesty looked like a fairy queen. Their Majesties were served by scarlet-clad pages, all sons of great nobles ; the menu—not presumably the cuisine—was largely in English ; and the music, which was specially chosen by the Emperor, was almost all by British composers. The State ball was a not less magnificent function, perhaps the most effective scene being the dancing of a minuet by a hundred couples.

Later in the year, when King Edward went to Biarritz for his usual “cure,” he took the opportunity of seeing some of those wonderful experiments in aviation which were then being shown by Mr. Wilbur Wright at Pau. His Majesty characteristically took the keenest interest in the mechanism of the aeroplane, which Mr. Wright minutely explained to him. Then, when the aviator went up, His Majesty followed intently the bird-like flight of

the machine, which performed evolutions of a kind which seemed in those early days of aviation truly astonishing.

In the same year the Tsar and Tsaritsa visited King Edward and Queen Alexandra at Cowes. Unfortunately on this occasion there was a repetition of the unseemly protests which had marked King Edward's visit to the Tsar at Reval. These protests, however, which were based on the view that King Edward's imperial guest was personally responsible for the blood that had been recently shed in Russia, did not come from persons of much weight or influence.

In August King Edward underwent the "cure" at Marienbad, the beautiful little Bohemian watering-place which by his favour was lifted from obscurity to prosperity. It is the property of the Abbot of Tepl, a dignified ecclesiastic whom His Majesty honoured with his friendship and decorated with the Victorian Order. At Marienbad the King was in medical charge of Dr. Ott, an able Austrian physician, who also visited him in England on several occasions. King Edward thoroughly appreciated this annual opportunity of throwing off the pomp and circumstance of Royalty, and the inhabitants generally respected the Duke of Lancaster's desire to preserve

his *incognito*. On his side he took his kindly share in the life of the little town, which regarded him with mingled veneration and admiration for his unfailing tact and for those little courtesies which he knew so well how to exercise.

King Edward received in November a visit from King Manoel of Portugal. The country was deeply interested in this young monarch, who had been called to the throne owing to the assassination of both his father and his elder brother. There were many rumours that His Majesty had come to England to woo and win a princess of our Royal House, but no betrothal was announced. King Manoel charmed everybody by his pleasant manner and the eager, intelligent interest which he took in our national life and customs. King Edward "declared" him a Knight of the Garter at a chapter of the Order held at Windsor.

The political situation arising out of the refusal of the House of Lords to pass the Budget of 1909 is known to have caused King Edward grave anxiety; but though it was widely rumoured that he regretted the action of the Upper House, he adhered most strictly to the reserve imposed on him by his constitutional position. The General Election which took place in the following January resulted in a

considerable reduction of the Ministerial majority. It soon, however, became apparent that the rank and file of Mr. Asquith's supporters, as well as the followers of Mr. Redmond, would insist on an effective measure for destroying the veto of the Lords. As in the last resort the only means of passing such a measure through the House of Lords itself would consist in a wholesale creation of peers, there was evidently a certain danger that not the Crown as an abstraction, but the personality of the wearer of the Crown, might become the storm-centre of an acute and embittered constitutional crisis.

What King Edward really thought on this difficult controversy will in all probability not be known for years. The only indication to which one can point is the insertion of the words "in the opinion of my advisers" with reference to certain ministerial action in His Majesty's last speech from the Throne.

The King spent the fortnight following his opening of Parliament, in the February of 1910, in the arduous way which seemed to have become with him second nature. He granted each day innumerable audiences, and on March 1 His Majesty held the first *levée* of the season, receiving on the same day the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, as well

as many members of the two Convocations who presented to His Majesty the addresses which had been adopted at their recent sittings. In his replies to these addresses King Edward made some memorable allusions to the great importance of international peace, and he also referred feelingly to the labours of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law.

On March 5 the King held what was destined to be his last Council, and received the Prime Minister in audience immediately afterwards. The same evening the Sovereign gave a great dinner-party, at which were present, among others—it is worth giving some of the names as showing His Majesty's widely differing interests and personal friendships—Lords Rosebery, Cawdor, Cromer, Rayleigh, and Dunedin; the Right Honourables Augustine Birrell, W. H. Long, Sir George Reid, Austen Chamberlain, and L. V. Harcourt; Sir Douglas Powell, Lieut.-General Sir H. L. Smith-Dorrien, and Admiral Sir William May.

The following day was Sunday, and after having been present at divine service in the private chapel of the palace, King Edward received a family party to luncheon. The Prince and Princess of Wales dined at the palace the same evening, and the same night King Edward and a small suite left for Dover.

It was characteristic of his late Majesty's thoughtful kindness that, though it is usual when the Sovereign is going abroad for the Prime Minister to be in attendance at the railway station, King Edward, having learnt that Mr. Asquith was going to the country for the week-end, excused his attendance.

This short account of how King Edward spent the last few days of his time in London before starting for his visit to the Continent shows how tiring and strenuous a life he led.

King Edward, who travelled *incognito* as Duke of Lancaster, made a brief stay in Paris, during which he exchanged visits with the President of the Republic and saw some of his French friends, of whom he had a large and attached circle, and that in each of the widely differing political worlds. The journey to Biarritz was, of course, accomplished under the best conditions, but it is probable that King Edward caught the severe cold which contributed so much to the break-up of his health during the railway journey there. Be that as it may, there can be no doubt that during his stay at the French watering-place of which he was so fond, and where a sojourn always did him so much good, he had a far more serious attack of illness than it was deemed advisable for the public to know. Unlike Queen Victoria, King

Edward was not infrequently confined for a few hours, or even for a few days, to his apartments, and accordingly the news of his indisposition did not arouse much anxiety. It was, however, significant that the correspondent of a London daily paper, protesting "against the amiable conspiracy of inaccuracy which seems to hypnotise the correspondents of English newspapers into optimistic statements about the King's health," stated plainly that King Edward had had an attack of that subtle and disturbing disease influenza, and it is now admitted that while at Biarritz his late Majesty had something of a real illness, and that a trusted trained nurse—the lady, in fact, who had been in attendance on the King during his operation—had been sent for from home.

King Edward, however, gave the lie to those who reported him to be really ill by suddenly becoming apparently quite well again. He took up the daily trend of his usual life, and once more began taking the long motor excursions which were certainly among the greater pleasures of his later years.

But even during his holiday the late Sovereign never allowed pleasure to interfere with work. He spent the whole of each morning at his desk, receiving letters, writing and dictating answers, and

signing documents. He constantly entertained his friends during this last holiday, his visitors including the Queen Dowager of Portugal, to whom he and Queen Alexandra were greatly attached. The King was present at some exhibitions of the national game of pelota, and he was much at the golf links, while he also took part in several games of croquet.

During the last days of his stay at Biarritz King Edward was in such perfect health that he was able to pay a two days' visit to Pau. While there he made several excursions in the immediate neighbourhood, and spent a long day visiting, not only Cauterets, but also Lourdes.

A story characteristic of King Edward's kindness, and, more, of his thorough good-nature, was told of his stay in France. While attending a children's party, His Majesty dropped a letter written to him by a very great personage. A thorough search failed to discover its whereabouts; but after a time the governess of one of the children who had been present at the party confessed that she had picked it up and had been tempted to keep it for the sake of the writer's autograph. The lady's horrified employers were extremely incensed, and would have dismissed her with contumely, were it not that His Majesty, hearing of her disgrace, ear-

nestly begged them not to do anything of the kind, pointing out that what had happened would be a severe lesson to her, and, further, that such a temptation was not likely to be put in her way again.

It had been rumoured that King Edward would take a short yachting tour in the Mediterranean, and also that on his way home he would make a stay in Paris. As a matter of fact, he came straight back to England, and so well and vigorous did he believe himself to be that within three hours of the Sovereign's return to London he went to the opera with the Prince and Princess of Wales and their two elder sons to hear *Rigoletto*.

There can be no doubt that during what was fated to be the last week of his life King Edward did too many things, and worked far too hard. On the morning after his return the Sovereign not only granted audiences to Mr. Asquith, Lord Kitchener, and Lord Althorp, but he entertained his eldest daughter, the Duke of Fife, and their two daughters to luncheon ; and in the afternoon of the same day paid a long visit to the Royal Academy, being met there, curiously enough, by most of the Royal personages who then happened to be in London.

On the Friday His Majesty received various diplomats and statesmen, including the Russian Amba-

sador, Lord Morley, Mr. Haldane, and Mr. William Dudley Ward; and Lord and Lady Gladstone were entertained by him at luncheon, afterwards taking leave of the King previous to their departure for South Africa.

On Saturday King Edward proceeded for the week-end to Sandringham, and made what was destined to be his last tour of the estate where he had spent so many happy years, and where he had set so admirable an example to all British country gentlemen by his enlightened and intelligent interest in his tenantry and in their needs.

CHAPTER XXVII.

KING EDWARD'S LAST ILLNESS AND DEATH.

THE first intimation given to the public of King Edward's illness was on Thursday, May 5, when it was announced that His Majesty was confined to his room with a severe cold, and thus would not be able to meet Queen Alexandra on the occasion of her return from the Continent, as had always been during their long married life his invariable custom. Not till afterwards was it known that His Majesty's condition had been considered sufficiently serious to be communicated to the Queen at Calais, and that Her Majesty had in consequence crossed the Channel in a storm. The ceremonials connected with the Queen's reception both at Dover and in London were curtailed, and the same evening the public were much startled by reading the first bulletin concerning the Sovereign's illness. It ran: "The King is suffering from an attack of bronchitis, and has been confined to

his room for two days. His Majesty's condition causes some anxiety.—Signed, F. LAKING, M.D. ; J. REID, M.D. ; R. DOUGLAS POWELL, M.D."

Although the whole of that night saw King Edward growing steadily worse, and Mr. Bertram Dawson, M.D., and Mr. St. Clair Thomson, M.D., were called in consultation, the Sovereign did not feel sufficiently ill to give up his usual laborious morning work. His late Majesty was actually sitting up, fully dressed, when the five doctors held their consultation ; nay, more, he received his life-long friend and private secretary, Lord Knollys, and went through certain letters and documents with him, and he also listened to a summary of the day's news. Meanwhile the bulletin posted on the gates of Buckingham Palace read very ominously to those familiar with the course of Royal illnesses : "The King has passed a comparatively quiet night, but the symptoms have not improved, and His Majesty's condition gives rise to great anxiety."

King Edward's amazing self-command and serenity of disposition was shown during the whole of this the last day of his life. He conversed with those of his friends and relations who were privileged to see him, and it is said that he was able to make

certain arrangements, as well as to send affecting parting messages to distant friends, in case of his illness having a fatal conclusion. As late as five o'clock King Edward was perfectly conscious, and able to recognise the various members of the family to whom he meant so much, and to send a message to the beloved youngest daughter who was even then journeying from Norway only to arrive too late. The last bulletin was given to the public shortly before seven o'clock on Friday, May 7: "The King's symptoms have become worse during the day, and His Majesty's condition is now critical."

Thousands of people waited outside Buckingham Palace during the five hours that remained before the passing of the King.

King Edward the Seventh's death took place sixteen minutes before midnight, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Victoria, and Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. The Archbishop of Canterbury was also present at the bedside. Shortly after midnight the great bell of Westminster Abbey was tolled, thus impressively conveying the news of the Sovereign's demise to hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

Not even the death of Queen Victoria aroused a

greater burst of sorrow and sympathy than did the death of King Edward VII. The deepest sorrow was felt among all classes, the name of Queen Alexandra being on every lip, especially as it was known with what brave fortitude she had spent those agonizing hours of suspense by the side of him who had been her helpmate for forty-seven years.

King Edward's reign lasted but little more than nine years and three months, and the judgment of the historian will surely be that, short as it was, it must be considered one of the most important in the long and glorious annals of our country.

The death of Queen Victoria was more than the passing away of an aged and venerated sovereign ; it was the end of an era, the ideas and mental attitude of which seem curiously remote from us. The nation stood at the beginning of the twentieth century at the parting of the ways. The modern spirit had come in obedience to the irresistible law of change in mundane things, and it was beyond measure fortunate that the burden of sovereignty descended at that moment upon a man so ideally fitted, both by temperament and by experience of life, to undertake it. Looking back on those mem-

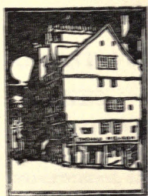
orable years of King Edward's reign, it seems astonishing how quickly he became the real leader of the nation, the most representative Briton of his time, at an age when most men are beginning to slip gently down the slope of years, each bringing more and more self-absorption and ever-narrowing range of interests until childishness and then death come—at such an age as this King Edward rose astonishingly to the height of his great office. Never were his interests keener and wider ; never did he work harder for the nation. His vivid, active personality impressed itself, when once he was able to grasp the opportunities of his station in their full measure, it is not too much to say, on the whole of the civilised world. He was indeed a true son of the twentieth century, of that eager, active modern spirit which has penetrated into all the departments of our national life.

It is a commonplace that contemporaries are never really able to judge their great men, and King Edward was not altogether an exception to this rule. His very geniality and *bonhomie*, which seemed to establish such friendly and intimate relations between him and his people, perhaps prevented them from realising the full measure of his greatness. Yet it was in the universal affection in which

he was held that lay the secret of his unique leadership of the nation. He realised in fact, more than any other monarch of modern times, the fine old Roman title *Pater Patriæ*, the "Father of his country."

THE END.

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SET IN AUTHORITY. Sara Jeannette Duncan.

This brilliant book by the author of "His Honor and a Lady," is a study of the relation between the English rulers of India and the educated natives. No writer, not even Mr. Kipling, portrays the conditions of Indian life with a surer hand. The book is well worth reading, especially at this moment when the problem it deals with has become one of urgent practical importance.

BORN IN EXILE.

George Gissing.

Mr. Gissing has a unique place among our novelists. He is the great portrayer of the life of the respectable poor and the shabby genteel. His realism is never sordid, for it is always redeemed by a high moral purpose and an austere and conscientious art. "Born in Exile" is a study of a young man of the lower classes who fights his way to a considerable learning, but whose creed is upturned by his love for a woman of another social sphere. Mr. Gissing has never written anything more moving or more true.

A SON OF HAGAR.

Hall Caine.

There is no need to describe Mr. Hall Caine's work. His gift of vigorous narrative and picturesque description have given him the largest popularity of our day. "A Son of Hagar" is an excellent example of his earlier and best stories, when he was less inclined to point a moral than to write an engrossing tale.

THE PRINCESS SOPHIA.

E. F. Benson.

Mr. Benson has won a great reputation and a large public as the creator of society comedies. But in all his work there is an undercurrent of romance, for he sees behind conventional masks and can follow the working of primitive passions. "Princess Sophia" is one of the best examples of his work.

SIR GEORGE TRESSADY. Mrs. Humphry Ward.

"Sir George Tressady" is Mrs. Humphry Ward's best romance of high politics. It is a story of a young member who is gradually won to Democratic ideas by the influence of a great lady—the "Marcella" of the earlier novel. The last chapters must remain as one of the finest episodes in modern fiction.

No. 5 ST. JOHN STREET. Richard Whiteing.

This book, which first brought Mr. Whiteing into fame, is the most realistic and powerful of modern studies of slum life.

CLEMENTINA. A. E. W. Mason.

The story of the romantic love match of the Old Pretender, the father of Prince Charlie, and how the bride was stolen and carried to Italy by the inimitable Captain Wogan. Mr. Mason is the true successor of the late Mr. Seton Merriman, and no man living can tell a better tale.

LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET. Miss Braddon.

Miss Braddon's first, best, and most powerful story—a story that shares with "East Lynne" the distinction of being the most widely-read novel of modern times.

HIS HONOR AND A LADY. Sara J. Duncan.

A story of high Indian politics, in which the great public servant, who knows no master but his conscience, is contrasted with the time-server, who succeeds where he fails, and steps into his shoes. The character of the Lieutenant-Governor is one of the finest modern studies of the best type of British administrator.

ROMANCE. Joseph Conrad and F. M. Hueffer.

"Romance," which Mr. Joseph Conrad wrote in collaboration with Mr. F. M. Hueffer, is a story of the Spanish Main, and of the strange adventures of the young Kentish gentlemen among the old Spanish cities of the West. The story does not belie its title, for the very soul of romance breathes in every chapter.

By ANTHONY HOPE.

THE INTRUSIONS OF PEGGY.

The most delightful of Anthony Hope's comedies. The irresponsible Peggy is to many the most attractive heroine of modern fiction, and in the account of her doings the author shows all the grace and wit which distinguished the "Dolly Dialogues."

QUISANTÉ.

This study of the adventurer in politics bears a certain resemblance to the career of Lord Beaconsfield, and in the newly-awakened interest which is created by the approaching publication of that statesman's life, will no doubt attract many readers. It is a brilliant study of one type of political success.

THE KING'S MIRROR.

This is in many ways Mr. Anthony Hope's most ambitious story, a study of the mind of a king. His admirers will find in it a new side of his genius.

THE GOD IN THE CAR.

The study of an empire-builder. The main figure bears a resemblance in many details to the late Cecil Rhodes, and the contrast of the self-made man of deeds and the ordinary dweller in London society is one of Anthony Hope's most brilliant achievements.

THE ODD WOMAN.

George Gissing.

Mr. Gissing has a unique place among our novelists. He is the great portrayer of the life of the respectable poor and the shabby genteel. His realism is never sordid, for it is always redeemed by a high moral purpose and an austere and conscientious art.

THOMPSON'S PROGRESS. C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne.

This is Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne's most ambitious work. It is the story of the progress of a young Yorkshireman from poacher to mill-hand, and thence to mill-owning, high finance, and public life. It is a strong and masterful study of character, and like all Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne's work, it is full of vivid descriptions and picturesque incidents.

CLARISSA FURIOSA. W. E. Norris.

A delightful story of politics and society, and of an ill-assorted marriage which turned out well in the long run. Clarissa Dent is one of Mr. Norris's most successful female characters.

LADY ROSE'S DAUGHTER. Mrs. H. Ward.

In this remarkable novel Mrs. Humphry Ward has worked the life story of the famous Mademoiselle de Lespinasse into a modern setting. It is a study of modern society and high politics, and against this glittering background we have a very original and charming love story.

CYNTHIA'S WAY. Mrs. Alfred Sidgwick.

Mrs. Sidgwick has won a reputation as a writer of ingenious comedies. The heroine in this tale is an English girl of great wealth, who to amuse herself goes to Germany and masquerades as a poor governess. These studies of German home life are accurately observed and done with much humour and art, and in the background there is a charming love-story.

INCOMPARABLE BELLAIRS. A. and E. Castle.

Every one who likes a stirring tale with sparkling dialogue and the fine manners of another age should read this novel.

WAR OF THE CAROLINAS. Meredith Nicholson.

Mr. Meredith Nicholson has acquired a great reputation in America by works like "The House of the Thousand Candles," in which the threads of romance are woven into the fabric of everyday life. The present book is pure comedy. It is the story of two friends who find themselves, unknown to each other, assisting on opposite sides in a war between the two daughters of the Governors of the Carolinas.

KATHARINE FRENHAM. Miss Beatrice Harraden

Miss Harraden, many years ago, made her reputation by "Ships that Pass in the Night" as a delicate and subtle portrayer of human life and an accomplished artist in feminine psychology. Without any cheap emotional appeal she has an unequalled power of attracting the attention and winning the affections of her readers. "Katharine Frenham" is an admirable example of this gift, and all lovers of sincere and delicate art will welcome it.

FIRST MEN IN THE MOON. H. G. Wells.

This is a good example of Mr. Wells's scientific romance at its best. It is a story of the first landing of mortals in the moon; of the strange land they found there, the strange government, and the strange people. It is a nightmare, but one without horror. Mr. Wells's imagination has created out of wild shapes and figments a world which has got an uncanny reality of its own. The story grips the reader in the first chapter and carries him swiftly to the end.

EXPENSIVE MISS DU CANE. S. Macnaughtan.

This is a comedy of a country house in which a number of present-day types appear. There is tragedy in the tale, but tragedy of the kind common in our modern world, which is unspoken and scarcely realized. The heroine is singularly sympathetic and carefully studied, and no reader will be able to avoid the spell of her charm.

FARM OF THE DAGGER. Eden Phillpotts.

Dartmoor is as much Mr. Phillpotts's own country by right of conquest as the Scottish Borders were Sir Walter Scott's, and Exmoor the late Mr. R. D. Blackmore's. The present tale deals with the time of the American War and the early years of the nineteenth century. It is also a record of action and adventure, and combines the merits of a novel of character with those of a fine romance.

THE AMERICAN. Henry James.

The publishers are glad to be able to add to Nelson's Library an example of the best work of one who is regarded with justice as among our greatest living novelists. "The American" has always been considered by his admirers as one of the most perfect examples of Mr. Henry James's remarkable art.

VALERIE UPTON. Miss A. D. Sedgwick.

This is a study of one type of the American young woman, who, with the phrases of self-sacrifice and idealism always upon her lips, is radically cold-hearted and selfish. It is a brilliant character study, and the repellent figure of the daughter is relieved by the gracious character of her mother—a character which is in many ways one of the most subtle and attractive in modern fiction.

THE LONELY LADY OF GROSVENOR SQUARE.

Mrs. Henry de la Pasture.

In this serious little comedy we have the story of a young girl who is left sole mistress of a great house in Grosvenor Square. Her brother usurps her interest to the exclusion of all other men, and it is when she finds that he has married that she begins to be aware of her lovers.

KIPPS.

H. G. Wells.

Full of humour, pathos, and a wise philosophy, no more original and delightful book than "Kipps" has been published in our time. It is the story of a young fellow of the lower middle class who becomes assistant in a draper's shop, and the first part tells, with intense vividness and insight, of his life there, with all its dreariness of outlook; then by an extraordinary chance he falls heir to a fortune, and proceeds to train himself to be a member of the leisured class. Finally, he marries his first love and returns to the ideas of his youth.

THE FOOD OF THE GODS AND HOW IT CAME TO EARTH.

H. G. Wells.

The tale of a discovery of a food which develops the body to a vast size. The inventors quail at first before the results of their work when they find giant wasps traversing the countryside. Ultimately a new breed of men arises, who build themselves a fortress and defy conventions. They are as great in brain as in body, and against these new demi-gods the State is driven to proclaim war. As in all Mr. Wells's books, there is much matter of social and scientific interest, but there is also a breathless romance.

THE MAN FROM AMERICA.

Mrs. Henry de la Pasture.

This "sentimental comedy" tells of an old French vicomte who lives in Devon, of his grandchildren, and of how the "man from America," the son of a former comrade, appears as a providence to save his fortunes. Mrs. De la Pasture has few rivals in the delineation of the little worries and tragedies of social life.

BY MRS. HUMPHRY WARD.

MARCELLA.

At a time when Socialism is in the air, this novel should be read with keen interest. Marcella is a beautiful, high-spirited girl who leaves her own class to devote her life to the service of the poor.

THE MARRIAGE OF WILLIAM ASHE.

This book has been universally acknowledged to be one of the most brilliant of modern social studies. The characters are in the main drawn from real personages; and apart from the dramatic interest of the story, much light is shed on certain aspects of modern political life. Its place is with the books that do not die, and it is the most attractive and brilliant of all Mrs. Ward's novels.

ROBERT ELSMERE.

The famous book, which is the parent of all modern theological speculations. Comparable in sheer intellectual power to the best work of George Eliot, and unquestionably the most notable work of fiction that has been produced for years.

THE HISTORY OF DAVID GRIEVE.

THE DUENNA OF A GENIUS. M. E. Francis.

A charming tale of the struggles of two sisters, one of whom is a musical genius, and the other her faithful duenna. The story tells of the vain efforts of the genius to secure recognition, and of how the sister sacrifices on her behalf her own lover.

BATTLE OF THE STRONG. Sir Gilbert Parker.

A brilliant story of the Napoleonic wars. The scene is laid chiefly in the island of Jersey, and to a charming love tale there is joined a multitude of stirring adventures.

By W. E. NORRIS.

MATTHEW AUSTIN.

The love-story of a country doctor. No living writer excels Mr. Norris in depicting agreeable everyday people with sympathy and humour.

HIS GRACE.

A story of a friendship, begun at school, between an unsuccessful solicitor and a duke.

THE PRINCESS PASSES. C. N. & A. M. Williamson.

Mr. and Mrs. Williamson have invented a new kind of romance. The motor car is its pivot, and the whole of Europe its area. A breathless tale of love and adventure is interwoven with a charming itinerary of the most beautiful Alpine valleys.

LOVE AND MR. LEWISHAM. H. G. Wells.

A story of the trials, social and educational, of a pupil-teacher. Sympathy and humour are equally planted in Mr. Wells's attitude towards his hero, and we follow Mr. Lewisham with a breathless but affectionate interest. How love came to him and laid low ambition is the crowning episode in a wonderful tale.

RAFFLES. E. W. Hornung.

"Raffles" is a creation which bids fair to rank with "Sherlock Holmes." On the stage it has been one of the most popular of recent plays. Raffles is a gentleman by birth and education, a county cricketer by preference, and an amateur cracksman by necessity. The story of his adventures is highly ingenious and diverting, and the moral of the book is wholesome, since it shows that crime, even in the hands of a man of genius, is a very poor profession.

MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE, and THE BEAUTIFUL LADY. Booth Tarkington.

The play of *Monsieur Beaucaire* has given Mr. Lewis Waller one of the finest parts, and has been hailed as the most successful romantic drama of our generation. But the novel from which it is taken is as dramatic as the play; indeed, since a good tale is more substantial than a drama, it is the more satisfying entertainment of the two.

SPRINGTIME. H. C. Bailey.

A splendid romance of Renaissance Italy, with plenty of good fighting, love-making, high adventure, and witty speech. The threads of romance are closely woven, and the interest never flags.

SECRET OF THE LEAGUE. Ernest Bramah.

This brilliant novel is a study of the future of our politics under a Socialistic *régime*. It tells how the middle and upper classes were crushed under a dead weight of taxation ; how a great league was formed to combat the evil ; and how victory was won by a device which is at once ingenious and convincing. Even those who differ from the author's forecast will delight in the stirring narrative and the many passages of trenchant satire.

LOVE AND THE SOUL HUNTERS.

John Oliver Hobbes.

"Love and the Soul Hunters" is a typical example of the late Mrs. Craigie's gifts. She probes deep into the abyss of human personality without ever losing touch with the realities of the everyday world. Her blended poetry and wit, and her great gift of style have given her a reputation which is likely to endure long in our literature.

PROFESSOR ON THE CASE. Jacques Futrelle.

The Professor is a devotee of pure logic, and, by acting on the principle that two and two always make four, is able to elucidate the most baffling mysteries. Every story in the book has a *dénouement* which no reader can possibly forecast. At the same time the Professor's solutions, when they are expounded, are so convincing as to seem elementary.

THE AMERICAN PRISONER. Eden Phillpotts.

A story of the great war with Napoleon. The scene is laid mainly in Devon, and since "Lorna Doone" there has been no better picture of the West Country and its people.

EIGHT DAYS.

R. E. Forrest.

Conan Doyle in his recent book "Through the Magic Door" wrote of this novel :—

"You cannot buy it. You are lucky even if you can find it in a library. Yet nothing ever written will bring the Indian Mutiny home to you as this book will do."

The publishers are happy in being able to make this fine novel once more accessible to readers.

THE HOUSE WITH THE GREEN SHUTTERS.

George Douglas.

The greatest Scottish novel since Stevenson. It is the other side of the medal to which certain Arcadian pictures of rural Scotland are the face. The writer deals faithfully with the meanness and vice of a small country town; but his humanity never fails him. The book is the tragedy of a man who is too great for his environment, and who is in consequence narrowed and soured into tyranny. As a relief to the grim tale there are many chapters of delightful and idiomatic humour.

By "Q" (A. T. QUILLER COUCH).

MAJOR VIGOUREUX.

A charming fairy tale of real life. It is the study of a superannuated officer, who, in middle age, suddenly finds his romance. Since Colonel Newcome, there has been no finer gentleman in fiction than Major Vigoureux.

SIR JOHN CONSTANTINE.

"Q" is a direct inheritor of the Stevenson tradition, and this is undoubtedly his finest work. It is a story of the eighteenth century in Corsica, and no more gallant and adventurous romance has been published in modern days.

THE RECIPE FOR DIAMONDS.

C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne.

Romance as simple and direct as that of the creator of "Captain Kettle" appeals to every man who has a spice of adventure in his soul. Public interest has been roused by the Lemoine case in the Paris courts, where an inventor claimed to have discovered the art of making marketable diamonds. Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne's story tells of an older recipe—that of the astrologer Raymond Lully—which is engraved on the wall of a tomb in the Balearic Islands, and this is the theme of one of the most breathless of modern romances.

TWO POWERFUL NOVELS BY FRANK NORRIS.

THE OCTOPUS.

Frank Norris planned out a great trilogy of stories in which was to be told the epic of the wheat. The first dealt with its production in California; the second with its distribution, and more especially with the Chicago wheat pit; the third was to have for its subject its consumption as bread in some village in the Old World. The third, owing to his death, was never written, but the present volume represents the first of the trilogy. It tells with amazing vividness of the struggles of the wheat-grower, and more especially his war with the Railway Trust.

THE PIT.

The second part of the great epic of the wheat. In his recent volume of Essays, "Through the Magic Door," Conan Doyle wrote: "There was Frank Norris, a man who had in him, I think, the seeds of greatness more than almost any living writer. *His 'Pit' seemed to me one of the finest of American novels.*"

THE WAGES OF SIN. Lucas Malet.

The publication of "The Wages of Sin" brought "Lucas Malet" (Mrs. St. Leger Harrison) into the front rank of contemporary novelists. The *Guardian* wrote on its appearance: "In reminding society that wages have to be paid by those who sin, and that those wages do not, as a rule, end with the sinner, Lucas Malet has given us a powerfully moral as well as a most striking and original novel."

AN ADVENTURER OF THE NORTH.

Sir Gilbert Parker.

In "An Adventurer of the North" Sir Gilbert Parker chronicles the last adventures of Pierre, that most whimsical and delightful of voyageurs. All lovers of good romance will appreciate this collection of tales, where the mystery of great spaces and far rivers is reproduced with a skill and a knowledge that in this special domain are unequalled.

TRANSLATION OF A SAVAGE.

Sir Gilbert Parker.

The story of the translation of an Indian girl from barbarism to civilization as the wife of an English gentleman.

A collection of these cheap and pretty volumes brightens any room, and is a constant resource. The reading of good fiction is admittedly one of the best antidotes to the strain and weariness engendered by the pressure of modern life, and Nelson's Library now includes over seventy of the best novels of recent years. Full List on application.

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